Page 1st

Bangor May 2d 1839

Dear Mother, Brothers, & Sister,

When I got home from school to day night, I perceived a pr. of shoes being by the door which looked as if they would fit me pretty well, so the girl told me that a man left them for me, a little while before. Well after supper Charles came in; he gave me a rale good letter! I went down town with him, I did not hardly have time to speak to him, was not with him half an hour, hardly

Ergo, I now sit down to answer your letter, as I had nothing written when C. was here, and did not have time to tell him 1/2 as Joe said First, I guess that there is not much danger of my hurting my health to work as I am used to it and good for it "to boot." As for work I guess I am to work as erly in the morn as you are. Play. caught no fish! Lamb's (P) very straight was not there to take care of them As for Jobs all I have done is to split up a little wood for C. Harris, next neighbor, about 1 1/2 hours. Mr. W. and I had a takl about board etc. last week and he concluded that as he had got the stump pueh bush hole as Joe says, that he should have enough for me to do, to pay for my board spell at least, I get up between 4 & 4 1/2, make fire, milk &c go out to work 5, breakfast 7 or little after. I I does not hardly agree with me very well to work so long before break-fast dine I dont go out at noon, or after breakfast commonly 3 or 4 hours I take care cow, get water, wood, do errands et cætera, &c. etc. forever So I study most of the time at noon, in eve, and morn sometimes I get along well in Virgil, Algebra &c. I have not caepit Greek yet as there is no class and I could not ~~get along~~ do anything alone

Page 3d

The dark colored Clothes are dirtiest to show dirt

I saw Mrs. Parker the other day, She is not expected to live but a short time. She appeared glad to see me, sent her love to you, said she should not see you again in this world, but hoped to in another. She has been sick for 4 months of a Consumption. Old Mrs. Harlow is well (Wash(e)s got a bad (Cold) to pay for)

As to the article Dress, first, capitol, my head is pretty well off. only, it wants a good fine Palm leaf hat before long. Seond, my old stock is most worn out, it never was well made, it seems as if 2/3 of the hair [had] come out. I shall want a new one or a hankerchief or some thing before summer is out. Then, my coat, it would have been 10 per cent better if I had [had] the old jacket at first, it is (lucky) it come before I begun upon the stumps. The old jacket will last all summer to work in, I guess; but my coat is begining to wear some, besides looking spotted, it begins. A good many of the boys wear cotton, (linen), jackets and if one of those old thin coats could be fixed up. or any thing else, so as to be dacent to wear to school, it would be saving [forever] to my coat, and much more more comfortable besides. The frock coat is a very decent garment, all only the pockets before which bother much, besides it is the only one that ever was, (at least that I ever saw) that had them before. As for pantaloons, it would been well enough, if I had [had] some old ones before digging the stumps, (although it would be a bother to change them) but the dirty work is about done. The Gallasses hant strached any yet as I can see I have wore the Drab pants, [all time] [most] dirty work, but they look cleanest now

4 and the Hair does this cold near the [illegible] up there

The [illegible] Sat. made our stumps [illegible] very, very cold mornings

Page 2d

I dont know certain how soon the class will commence the Greek. In the school those that study Latin do not Algebra et vice versa, they think they cannot attend to both at once, I dont, Bangor boys is lazy

Recreations none, Companions none, Work see page 1st. Vex. Trib. &c. Poh!. Progress and Improvement So, So, So So, So, so, Hurrah for Jackson! How does the old barn look? Good!

May day as I was digging up mine roots in the morn I saw lots of fellers of both sexes strollin a maying more than 50 went by me in one direction, they staid untill noon, but I guess few flowers. School kept, but it was rather thin, though. There was a great Fair ^eve at the Bangor house, got up by the ladies of St. Johns parish for the benefit of said Episcopal Church

Mrs. Ward at meeting to day, So I thought Sartin

As for Contentment you speak of. I am of a ver[illegible] tented disposition I believe, naturally so I guess the[illegible] no danger As to the family Mr. W. is pretty clever I guess, only he smokes his pipe half of the time in the house. I shrewdly suspect that he is next to a New Church, New Jerusalem, Swedenburgite, or whatever; he has lots of such books. I expect he is kinder wavering between two minds. Mrs W. is clever Joe is a real clever, roguish little beggar. Baby 4 m Mr. Wakefield is a clever sociable joking bachelor lawyer, eats here, and sleeps in his Office. Said Lawyer has always somethin[illegible] to say to every body, ~~no matter~~ The girl has lately come. S. S. Teacher Mr. I forget. about I tucked the "Traffic" into the P. M. soon after I arrived. I bought 8 sheets of paper lately — $.08 [illegible] 50

The wind dat. made our Stumps burn finely, cold morning

Potatoes are $,62 bu. Elial's was a very laconic episle, he must not be discouraged, I shall expect quite a letter from him soon

The dark cloth off my frock coat is abominable to look dirty. I have not had to write com. yet

I wish Joe's send me a copy of one of his to save trouble!

Brownville
May 8

6

Mr. Charles H. Rich
Milo
Me.

Isaac Bangor
May 2 1839

The vacation of the school is 4 weeks in August, I believe Mr. Worcester says that there is nothing gained by beginning Greek to soon, the 2 languages puzzle one another [illegible]

this letter is small, but my ... Bang... ... May 12th 1839

Dear Folks ... a

Moth... I have not much to write, but as you said I must have a letter wrote all of the time beforehand; I can ax you to write if no more

The (Stump hole) was ploughed last Wednesday P. M. with 2 horses and 2 men besides Mr. W. and myself! We have not commenced opperations upon it yet though

Mr. W. cultivates this year a clay bed in the shape of a garden 2 doors off from here. I was ploughed a little, Wed. but it is baked down miserable. I have to dig it up with a shovel; mix in manure etc.; it is rather hard work. I have enough to do all of the time, out of School; more than pay for my board I guess rather

I work 4 or 5 hours per diem, none at noon though. I have wrote a letter to Ann, put it in the P. O. yesterday. When did you get my last letter and who brought it? I left it at Chase & Henrys inn

I am getting along some in my studies, about through 2 book of Æneid 40 to 60 lines per day, Have not had to speak or write yet being new scholar, shall soon though.

Last Friday school did not keep, but the scholars got some trees and set out in the yard. I did not go for trees but remained to work in the yard digging holes etc. The City Council furnished firemen and team to bring ... and sand into the yard

Last Mon. Judges ... and his wife Mrs. Worcesters sister Mercy and their little children arrived here from Augusta visiting, so there is a house full now most

Mrs. W.s regular girl went away sick April 21st since then I have had to milk. There was a little girl came and staid 3 or 4 days and was homesick and Mrs. W has done without anyone till last week, when Delia came

Mr. Tenney my S. S. teacher has left the school, gone to preaching up to the Corporation. last sabbath a stranger to day no teacher. Mr. Hatch has gone out of town, Vacation

I dont know but it would have been well for Joseph to have left his cap here as he offered to. Hats are not so much worn now as they used to be I guess; There is not a single one goes to the school

I have worn the Tarpawlin as yet mostly, but it will be to warm by and by, I guess I can get along if I have a Palm leaf. If I could have some kind of a green baize or white cotton or linen jacket or frock to wear to school it would be an excelent plan, Save my Coat of which there is need as I have nothing else to wear to Church

The Brown cloth is miserable stuff, always awful dirty. I have worn the Drab pants most of the time but they look neat and clean – the others are dirty. It has been very Smoky here for several days, hardly see the sun. Hant there been some cold weather at Milo lately, my fingers were cold morning, summat

You need not write on a half sheet because my ... I only envy ... a cent ... i.e. a sheet of paper

Dear Brothers Joseph Mayo Metcalf & Eliab W. Metcalf
Why dont you write to Me. Also Eliab especialy
I want to and Must know all how you get along and prosper
You Must write to me when you began to plough and where, to sow
to plant etc. In short you between you two Must write to me
a full and particular account of each days proceedings, every
Minutiae, when you planted, sowed, ploughed, harrowed or what not
every single piece of land. Also about the garden and every thing
else whatsoever; I will risque the paper, dont say any thing
about time, or any other excuse: there will be chances enough to send
Eliab's letter was rather brief, dont be discouraged, you must begin
sometime. I shall expect a rail good letter from you soon Eliab
I know you can write well enough to do it.
That Mr. Dunton (Writing Master) who came in the boat when
you did Joseph is a going to open a school here soon, pr. $3,
for 12 lessons. Mr. W. has a subscription paper. he (Dunton) is a
most tearing writer, there is a lot of specimens of his writing in
P. O. Flourished off Greatly. Is not Jo. lazy Eliab? does he keep up
his eend of the yoke well? Who milks? How much do you get?
I wish I had some Bread and milk. How high are the Early Peas
have the Vines on the b[illegible] up? [illegible] the horses stand it?
What do you do with the [illegible] um [illegible] &c. etcetera, &c. etc.

Bangor [illegible]

Guess again!

How will you know who wrote this letter? Anon.
I have got the globe up to Mr. W[illegible]
Mr. Yancey said that the freight was not paid
I did not pay — until the Chaise was taken on

Potatoes are selling for 62½ cents. Beans $2.50
Could not Charles bring down some Potatoes to sell?
What do you eat? Charles bought any wheat yet?

Lucy H. Metcalf

Lucy
Lucy

I. M. M.

May 20th [illegible]

Care of
Mr. Charles W. Rich
Milo
Me.

Mrs. Anna M. Metcalf
Milo

Beans $2,50 · Bangor Wed. May 22d 1839

Dear Folks Evening

Mother! Brothers and Sisters!

I have been to work all day, planting in the field and sowing excubent roots in the garden After supper I went down town I found not in the P. M. but in the P. O. a letter from Milo Well! as you wrote of Charles bringing down some Potatoes I thought I would write to stop him, As, Potatoes have suddenly fallen from on high A few weeks ago then good Chenangoes sold for $,70 or even ,75 per bush, any thing that was a potato, 50 a bu. by 62 Now Chenangoes for less than 50 – whites 42 and no market for whites at all hardly no how

I had a letter wrote more than a week ago, but nothing perticular, and as I had no chance to send it staid in my pocket till now.

I will extract from it some, as I am in a great hurry The Farm was ploughed May 8th by horses not very well. Mr. W. has taken a clay – bed in the shape of a garden 2 doors south of here it was ploughed some but I have to dig it up with a shovel principaly, hard work rather I put a letter for Ann in the P. O. May 11th Judge Cony and his wife Mrs. W. sister Mercy May 6th visiting with 2 young ones – went away 15th / Mr. Hatch has left town Vacation My Sabb. S. teacher has left, gone to preach to the Corporation. Mr. Dunston, W. M. who come in the boat with Joe is teaching W. S. $,3 for 12 lessons &c. &c. &c &c. &c &c.

It is after 9 now so I cant stop to write much You Must all Write

Joe! Write 10 times more particular about all of the work Every thing is selling at Auction here n[illegible]t. What a letter I had written a good [illegible]e so full that I could not tuck in the Praties [illegible] Och!

Isaac Bangor
May 22 39

Half Sheet

25
Me

Mr. Charles W. Rich
Milo
Me.

23d

I am getting along in [illegible] 3 book Aeneid
You Must Write Better
I am awful Sleepy

Bo[ston] Sunday May 26th 1839

My Dear Mother
Brothers and Sister
One and all; Greeting

I dont know what you thought of my last letter
or rather – scrawl — I dont know what – but you see, I went down
to the P. O. just at night, and got a letter from home, containing
among other things information that Charles intended bringing down Potatoes
I immediately set to, inquiring concerning the market for pratoes
and judged it expedient or rather necess[ar]y to write by the next morn mall
I did not get home till towards 9, then had to write a letter, half a day's work
and get up very early to put it in the mail, too. — Excuse etc
The principal news now is – that I am going to leave Mr. Worcester's
How so? you ask, I suppose; Well. Mr. W's last summer's boarder Mr
Albert Paine came back here to board a little while ago Well, Mr. John
B. Hill had spoke to Mr W. last winter about boarding here and little
more than a week ago he came wanted to come immediately, and would take
no denial. I suppose Mr. W thought it would be more profitable to
have per week and do his ~~work~~ chores himself and hire his work done
So as Mr John B. wanted a chamber I had to quit. Mr. W. said he
was very sorry that I could not stay all summer, that it would have
been very convenient for him etc, but, I suppose Mrs. W. was
opposed to my coming at first, as th[ere w]ould be no help to her and make
some work etc. I dont know cert[ainly w]here I shall go yet certain
Mr. Asa Walker (Mrs. Parker's son in law) wants me to go there also
on account of Mrs. Parker's state. Mr. Wm. Albot C. S. S. C. talked
of wanting a boy. only his wife is not now at home, but said if I could not
find any other place he would see about it. both would be excellent places
Mr. Parker is very feeble indeed, cannot remain long
Mr Worcester is from N. H. is a nephew of Noah and Samuel Worce[ster]
He says it is a very bad plan to study too hard, said he went through
Graeca Minora in 3 month and 11 days, reviewed it in a fortnight etc.
studied 18 hours per day, (not moderately either I guess) but said he I
lost a great deal by it, I was sick allmost a year, and now I cant study
over 6 hours per day with profit. It is vacation at the Seminary
Mr Hatch is gone out of town. Mr. Willy, Wiley or whatever
is going to open a singing school next Wed. for Youth people
terms $1.50 for the 3 months every Wed. and Sat. P. M. – Cheap
I should like to see; your bundle for me, I need the Stock; Tut
is a rale good gall, only I see she has not got over her Silliness.
Why did not I hear from Eliab in the last letter? I expected quite a
letter from him, he was rather laconic in the previous one
Your letters are not half particular enough. I want to know
every thing. Preserve your b[...] Joe. Poor old hat
Our peas came up last Wed. have yours? cucumbers? Flower Garden,
Have you no butter to ~~bring~~ send down? 25 cts. It is a pity Charles could not
have brought down some potatoes at 62½ some time ago, May 15
Mrs. W. has 12 chickens about [...] old, how many you got? how
does the famous turkey prosper. also pigs calves etc. etc. etc. etc.
It seems to me that you f[...] slack or [...] about writing

The Brown boys have [illegible] got [illegible] summer [illegible]ket, thin, dark, Sattinett, or something, just as tight [illegible]ey will [illegible]on, with high velvet collars close round the neck. Palm leaf hats are now worn with rims 8 or 10 inches wide look queer.

Tues. May 28th At Asa Walkers I moved here last night I am to work in the garden, do chores etc. I think I have got an excellent place. Mr. W. appears to be a very pleasant man [illegible] to sleep at present with [illegible] Sam[illegible], a young man who is studying law with him, a very pleasant clever fellow. Mr. Walker prays in his family. belongs to Mr. Pomroys Church. His cow gives 14 qts. of milk per day, have bread and milk to eat. His corn, beans, peas, turneps, potatoes etc. are up and growing. Mr. W's is close by the school-house, right across uncle Nat's garden. I have got to speak tomorrow and write Sat. dont the grass grow. Charles waggon has been standing in C. & H.'s yard all day. I have been only able to learn that 2 men came in it and went to Stillwater. Why did not they bring my bundle or see? We have got a [illegible] [illegible] Mrs. Parker is very feeble indeed, not expected to live a great while. Mr. Walkers sister does the work here now. A Mrs. Dutton is also here. She used to be acquainted with you she says. I cant see why you dont all of you write more, better, peticularlyer etc. James Walker is rale clever young man I guess. 30th. What a rain! I am going to put this in the waggon box and see if it will get home, as the waggon yet remains here. and I dont who come in it or where to find

Joe [illegible]

May 26
39
Bangor

Mrs. A. M. Metcalf

Mr. Charles W. Rich
Milo
Mee

Joseph M. Metcalf

I have had sore eyes more than a week but I believe that they are getting over it first a little sore in the corners: then I hurt them shingling while they were sore. Mr. W. has a farm, 4 acres, out a little, I work on it Wed. & Sat.

Dear ...

Une, et Omnia!

I am now laboring under no ordinary ... Alas! my pen! my pen! Vats to be done ...?

I ... went out dat, and bought ... pen with a ... cute mahogany handle! for the ... of 30 coppercents, paid in good silver coins!

Well yesterday I left it on the mantel, in our room, at night. To day noon I wanted it and behold it was not there! ... in the room! I mentioned the loss to the folks, and ... Alla, who had swept out the room in the morning, thinking herself implicated, made a most diligent search for it, but all in vain; it is not to be found upon the premises. The most probable opinion is that Miss ... carried it out with the dirty clothes, ...

I have bought a ... for $1,25, ... done it two months ago. It is a ... of Josephs, most. It will last me a few ..., I guess.

I guess I shall get along ... for Clothes now, only I ought to have a handsome summer vest, but can do without pretty well I guess.

The coat is rather large, especialy about the sleeves and is much longer than ... Otherwise it is a very good garment for Sunday wear. It'll do ... well, I guess. I shall get along for pantaloons this summer, I guess ...

Your letter, Dear Mother, was very excellent: but rather too short, ain't it?!

I guess I shall get along after a fashion at Composition. I have written but two yet, one a short and rather hurried one upon the subject of Early Rising, the other a decentish one upon the history of Queen Dido, of whom we have been reading some what in Virgil, lately.

... at the ... I guess ... this coat ... pretty well I guess, I wear it ... when it is warm, although it is so cold and rainy ... that there is no fire ... the time.

The ... is excellent, rather too ... for me ...

... should ... making ...

Most Affectionately ... Metcalf

[illegible] that are Joe's [illegible]
[illegible] things. Truth thinks it does no [illegible]
[illegible] long silence, and most egregious disappointment.
[illegible] expected to receive from him him and Eliab as much [illegible]
[illegible] full of [illegible] manner [illegible] accounts, [illegible]
[illegible] affairs [illegible] [illegible] etc. etc. [illegible]
[illegible] little [illegible] sheets!!! I believe Eliab was the best.
I should like to have seen your letter to E.B. Barnes!
[illegible] congratulate you upon your new [illegible]
[illegible] the "[illegible] into the drink!" ha, ha, ha
[illegible] in the [illegible] Barnes [illegible] one of
[illegible] [illegible] until [illegible] I do come unto you
[illegible] me [illegible] the [illegible]. Write me all about
the sheep raising, the quantity of wool etc. Also all
about the number, quantity, quality, magnitude, species
and [illegible] of your lambs. I think the [illegible]
[illegible] is an excellent plan.

There is no need of sticking up [illegible] in
[illegible] [illegible], now, as it is just about as near
[illegible] for any one to go by Mr. Walker's and
have a [illegible] as not only keep right down to the
Street instead of Exchange. First House above the
Baptist meeting house, same side of the road, where
the lilacs and [illegible] grow.
[illegible] double pink [illegible]
the front yard, also Adam and Eve a large blue
flower [illegible] to [illegible] last fall.
Mr. [illegible] has lots of lilacs I don't know as there is
more at any place in town. I propose transmitting
to [illegible] a bunch of them, at a convenient season.
I was greatly [illegible] at Eliab's letter it contains
the most news of any, I believe. Give away
[illegible] again, once a week.

Mr. Walker's [illegible] to blow Sat. [illegible]
[illegible] on your head, namely your raft, give away
I should really like to help you swim this summer
[illegible] to the water but once this summer
[illegible] Sat. up [illegible] of the Railroad, in the [illegible]
with James, [illegible] [illegible] holes, water 3 or 4 feet!
[illegible] [illegible] About
[illegible] [illegible], [illegible] from the [illegible]
[illegible] [illegible] I am [illegible]!

(A Touch of the Sublime

I rise, Mr. President, to argue the case of the poor man and the rich man, and I believe that before I shall have concluded, you will all allow that it is a case that does not admit of any argument [illegible] the rich man reclines his emaciated [illegible] on a rich mahogany sofa, cut down, hewn out, [illegible] and [illegible] from [illegible] which [illegible] summer of the [illegible] morning [illegible] his [illegible] in china cups [illegible] manufactured [illegible] Chile, Peru and [illegible] unknown and uninhabitable parts of the universe, [illegible] the poor man [illegible] his [illegible] to the [illegible] stars [illegible] with the vast [illegible] and innumerable satellites [illegible] the celestial axletree of this magnificent [illegible] on high, and [illegible] of his father's children [illegible] and teaches them to [illegible] to [illegible] of immortality beyond the grave.

[illegible] I [illegible] found [illegible] in [illegible] all of [illegible] as I could find nothing else, [illegible] nothing [illegible] to write hardly, I thought [illegible] peculiar instruction and [illegible] of [illegible] Eliza.

And now I [illegible] declare that, if I having nothing in the world to say, hardly, can write a whole [illegible] to fill the half the time [illegible] like this, [illegible] abominable shame for that we happy Joe at Bob, etc. to write me a letter [illegible] half sheet of paper (not half full neither [illegible]) [illegible] that me [illegible] month [illegible] I have [illegible] want [illegible] every thing about every [illegible]

[illegible] every week

[illegible]

[illegible] friend [illegible] has any [illegible]

I met him [illegible] tonight. [illegible] rather impatient [illegible] [illegible] asked me when [illegible] into [illegible] he [illegible] money, yet [illegible] that [illegible] [illegible] before now [illegible].

[illegible] give him [illegible] [illegible] pleasure him

J. M. Metcalf
Milo

Mr. Charles W. Rich
Milo

Isaac Barger
June 17 1839

[illegible]

[illegible]

Dear [illegible]

This letter is [illegible] apology [illegible]
I have written [illegible] to you [illegible]
[illegible] apology for [illegible]
[illegible] a great deal of [illegible]
[illegible] few [illegible]
[illegible] and I can
not [illegible] of the time.
For the [illegible] of the [illegible]
[illegible] I [illegible]
[illegible]
[illegible] for the [illegible]
[illegible]
[illegible]
[illegible]
[illegible]
[illegible]
[illegible] The [illegible]
[illegible]

He preached this afternoon in a kind of grove up the Kenduskeag about half a mile or less. He is a noble man, large and very majestic & a very good speaker, and sound in his teaching I guess he is somewhat of a [illegible] belief. There was a very large assembly, all sitting & a great many standing. he preached 3 sermons in the course of the day, 2 [illegible] & [illegible] evening. He thinks it wrong to spend so much money building churches, organs, etc. [illegible] apology for going there [illegible] that heard him in the [illegible] before meeting and liked him somewhat.

I began the VI. Eneid last week, & shall begin the Greek grammar soon, this week I expect, I have got most learned through the Algebra and got back to review now.

I have declaimed but 3 times, and wrote but 2c; it was my turn to write yesterday but it was put off till next week.

The book is just the thing I wanted

I don't know whether I had better have
a new coat or not. The blue one is very ragged
and dirty, but I suppose I can get along with
it. It shows very plain that it was not made
for me. I wish that I had some kind of
thin [illegible] to wear this summer
I guess I can get along without any new
clothes though. As for the Vacation it is
not yet certainly decided when it will be
it always has been in August, first three I
believe but there has been some talk of
changing it this year into Sep. I guess
though it will be in august, the boys all
want it then. It will be cooler then
[illegible] a lot of [illegible]
[illegible] and I [illegible] this
year. What shall I do [illegible]
Good bye etc
[illegible]

J. T. M.

Isaac Bangor
June 30 '39

[illegible]

from [illegible] is a [illegible] [illegible]

[illegible] to see you [illegible]

It is greatly [illegible]

Hope [illegible]

Mr. Isaac S. Metcalf
Bangor
At Mr. Walker

[illegible] commence [illegible]

but I've got [illegible] you see, [illegible]

[illegible]

Bangor [illegible] July 9 1839

Bangor Sat. Oct. 5th 1839
Evening

Dear Mater et Soror

Wed. night I saw Mr. N. Hatch jun. direct from Milo, who gave me two letters and Umbrellas. You may be sure the letters were as nice feast after digging potatoes all the after noon. I have not sold the wool, and I dont see as I am likely to for $,50 per pound or any thing near it. I think it must be a mistake about wool selling at Exeter for $,60. Here nobody want to buy wool. "Woods" dont buy any wool now, and pay cash, at any price", he says. Hunt or Campbell and Mills "dont want wool, will take pelts." Sanibee "will take pelts or wool, clean washed, (since sheared) but at nothing like 50 cents. I went all round Friday and enquired, although I was most ashamed to, I have been so many times before; but could get no encouragement. Meanwhile, I have got but little more than $,50 and have not paid for coat yet entirely or got me either boots or Shoes, and I must (ought to) have a pr. of Gloves of some kind to wear to meeting, immediately. etc. &c. &c. — "Wots to be did?" I sez.

I want some Mittens right away, my hands were really uncomfortably cold this very Sat. morning, turning out the old cow!

You will see that I am "chock full" of wants, of all kinds, numerous and sizes; but I dont see how it can be helped. I have been almost thinking, that it would be best to quit the field for the present and go home to work till I could be ready in fixes (Then I'd be well off.) but it would be rather a at like, now that I have got fairly begun and in for it; besides I should get way behind my class in every thing, and could not get up,

Well Sir, (If I stay here) I have got to twice every day, go into a little dirty bangor stable, and milk an old cow, what's laid in that same dirty stable, all night, besides taking care of her, two pigs and other dirty work. You will readily perceive that if this is done in the same clothes that I wear to school, that I shall continually be dirty, smell like stable &c. &c. &c. &c. James tell me I must have a regular kitchen frock, (such as Charles used to had) and keep me neat and clean James bothers me a good deal about how I shall get along this winter. He is going off to keeping school, before long! He says —
Jan. 6th The shirt that you sent — one of the shirts that I have got here is Josephs I guess for it is so small I cant wear it anyhow. wristbands about half bigenough — very short, too.
The pair of fine shirts (narrow collars) are most too thin and cold to wear in cold weather, and I haint got but one other one besides Joe's
My shirts all labor under a mistake in making, — One pr. the collars are too narrow — inconvenient — and dont keep my neck warm, and the rest are too narrow to turn over and too wide to set in the way etc. etc. however they all answer a pretty good purpose I ought to be about medium of them I fear I shall want mittens mitten much before I get them, and I must have also some kind of Gloves to wear to church etc. I am afraid I shall be cold this winter, it is cold here already. it is here than it is to home! suthin I want some Inkstand. I want some Suspenders. I want some Mittens. I want a Comforter. I want some Shoes. I want to go home. I want most Everything to say nothing of Cloth. Jacket and everything else most. I guess you will think I want enough to make you crazy, and more than I shall be likely to get. I believe I will try and do what I can about getting a chance for Sister Ann I dont think there will be a chance before Spring. At the beginning of a Winter ... any time there would be a chance for a Primary School. I suppose, but that is not ... must all of you write to Me often) Odd. &c.

I. S. Metcalf

Bangor Dec 25 ... 3

Bangor Sunday October 13th 1839

I am sure no one can say that I do not write home often enough. If I could hear from home half as often, I should think myself well off. I do not see why I cannot, especially when I remember that there are four or five at home to write to me.

I received a part of a letter (half sheet) from Ann last Friday eve. by Mr. Walker, who said some one gave it to him in the [illegible]house. If I had got it an hour or two sooner, I should have sent [illegible] right up by Mr. [illegible], who went out that night as I [illegible] not see any prospect of getting rid of it here. But I could see no one to send it by yesterday; probably shall by [illegible] or so.

The letter [illegible] it is short contains news indeed, about [illegible] [illegible]. I [illegible] know hardly what to think about it, but should think it would be an excellent chance for him if he can [illegible] it, with Mr. Whipple. It would not [illegible], 50 per week, besides his board I suppose, would it? How soon will he go [illegible]? !! he will be [illegible] nice chance I guess, should think so. [illegible] will be a Gentleman! Well, I shall be glad to have one in the family. He must mind and be a good boy, that's all.

I have not much of any thing to write about now, that is, if you have got the letter I sent up last week by Wm. Porter. [illegible]. However I thought I would [illegible] a little to send up with the wool. I shall also send, I guess, that shirt of Joseph's, which was sent [illegible] mistake I suppose, that old [illegible] that Lucy made, which is got so white, or thick, that it is not fit to wear! and some flower seeds perhaps, that I have gathered here etc. I meant to have brought with me that other old [illegible], the soft one, [illegible] [illegible]

It is a pretty good one to wear yet, and looks whole and nice, when on my neck, although it turns round rather easy.
I got along pretty decent well yet about clothes, except pants to wear to church, of which there is a great lack. My old frock coat held out pretty well, does well enough to wear to school every day, only it is awful dirty, as I have to do all my work, most, with it on. Mr. Walker has lately, last week, got a new, cute and and excellent cooking stove and set up it the, late dining room, now to be called the kitchen. he has also got a great sink put up and has the aqueduct water come into the would be kitchen. Meanwhile the little, old kitchen is cast off or goes to grass as a back room. This innovation has made a great change in the appearance of things, the old Fire frame is cast out, the fireplace overhauled, and built up entirely with brick. The funnel goes right up stairs into the back entry, where is a large drum, as it is called, for the purpose of heating the chambers. It will make the chamber where I sleep most as warm as it is down stairs, so you see it will be nice about studying evenings etc. I tried it last eve, the fire was kept in the stove, and I studied up stairs, it was nice and comfortable, warm, but it made my head ache I found. I fear it will be bad, but guess it will do or —
With the stove soft wood is to be burned I believe, at least Mr. W. has got some sticks to burn in the stove, it has to be sawed rather short, but it takes but very little wood. I wish you could see this stove it is real curious, all manner of fix. there is four places to put in pots or kettles or anything, two over the fire and two over the oven, which is large and behind the fire. The stove and all appurtenances, lots of boilers, kettles, griddles, pans and every thing, cost 11 dollars more

I want very much to hear, more particular, all about how you get along &c. &c. to home. Joseph ought to write to me more about the work &c. Also E. L. I. A. B. All must write to me

I dont suppose that there is any expectation that Charles will be do any thing on that lot up the river, this fall, is there? P.S.

It appears to me that Charles is rather late about his work, is he not? I c not help wishing that I was there, sometimes, almost.

Meri. Dont you think I have a knack of filling up a letter by some means or other, when I have nothing at all to write?

I am in a great hurry to get to have some money, especially to pay Mr. Fox. I dont see as it will do to wait till the wool can be sold or. I told Mr. Fox that I expected to have the money in a week or 2, I wish — I hope that my new pantaloons will set a little better than these I have now if it is a possible thing; those old, coarse ones that you made while I was at Milo set a great deal better than any of the others, although they are nothing to brag off at all. I need some suspenders much, and I dont want to buy any here if I had the means, for they would not be worth any thing hardly.

Thurs. 17th I meant to have sent this before now but c find no one to send it by. School dont keep this A. M. The Episcopal church is being dedicated. School left off before 11, but I staid a spell and got my P. M. lessons, there was an alarm of fire just now but I guess it did not amount to much.

Yesterday we dug carrots 9 bu. Beets 8 bu, ~~Ton~~, ~~one~~ so?

I am in a great hurry to hear from you and also to receive — Also to know about Joseph's going to Boston etc.

Mr. Welch is down here now I believe and Mr. Wyman to.

Do write to me and tell me what to do, etc. &c.

I feel rather ashamed of my last letter and also of this, complaining so much etc. I can get along very well now this long time. I don't know as I ever shall want any more Shirts, fixed so cutetor! I can get along about Boots or shoes pretty well for some time yet. only it is I don't know but Joseph will need that great thick Comfort I shall, if he was a going to stay at Milo. A little long one to keep on my neck all the time would be good for M...

it is rather a pity to wear my thick boots all out before winter comes. the Suspenders was in great want ... [illegible]

Mrs. C. W. Rich
Mr. A. M. Metcalf
Care of
Milo

Bangor October 13 1839

[illegible] soon. Since writing the last I have been down town to see Mr. Rich and happened to see A. Hatch, who gave me a bundle from you. you may guess how soon I got home and opened it (the bundle) Did you take off the wheel band to tie round I am afraid you were more scared than I was hurt. I guess I shall get along pretty well after a fashion.

About Joseph's bill was only some of my fun about his ~~footishness~~. ~~This was~~ only some of Joseph's sillines when I was at Milo, that I put in to fill out the letter.

Bangor [illegible] eve. Nov. [illegible] 1839

[illegible upside-down cross-writing]

Dear Father and Sister &c.

I hope you have not *quite* forgotten me, but it is a good while since I have received a real letter from Milo; the last was, I believe, from Joseph, about the middle of last month. I am afraid I shall not get along so well about letters now Joseph is gone. I really expected a good long letter when Charles came down. Charles got in here in the morning but I did not see him till after dinner, [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] home. The Tremont with the potatoes and [illegible] on board, started from here Tuesday night or Wednesday morning. James received a letter or newspaper from Mass. a few days since [illegible] informing him that a letter that he sent by Joseph had arrived there so I concluded that Joseph had (probably) arrived safe, sometime! Mr. Buckingham, the oriental traveller, has been lecturing here on the Holy Land, Syria &c. you will remember extracts from his lectures published in the Olive, last winter. At his introductory lecture (free), the meetinghouse was 'chock full' standing [illegible], and lots went away. The single tickets for the course were sold at $1,50 apiece, But the next day, [illegible] [illegible] commenced Mr. Worcester received a note from Mr. B. informing him that his scholars might receive tickets for 50 [illegible] the course, if their names forwarded through him. Mr. W. & Mr. B. [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] of the scholars, of whom I was one, accepted the proposition, and I have attended the lectures, although I dont know as I Ought to have spared the money. The lectures were [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] [illegible], or [illegible] 5 ministers (the [illegible]) 2 Prof. [illegible] [illegible] Representatives [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] [illegible]

[illegible] through the Æneid of Virgil and am now reviewing it at the rate of 4 books in 2 days, 3 books in a week [3 books already] [illegible] the Æneid and the Bucolics this term, next term vice versa.

This term is 14 weeks, consequently 5 weeks longer; Vacation 2 weeks I shan't be at home at Thanksgiving then, shall I? Greek gets along slowly.

[illegible] much to know how Charles get along with his work now a days; I am sure if those piles [illegible] cast dont get burnt off it will not be the fault of the season. I am afraid the ploughing will come out at the little end of the horn, if Charles had not begun when he was down; There could not be a better chance than this fall. My Frock coat has one ragged elbow but I guess I can get it mended perhaps [illegible] [illegible] with the [illegible] other ones which I [illegible] I suppose I could possibly get along this [illegible] out without any [illegible] [illegible] saibu [illegible] more !! I can get along after a fashion [illegible]

Lane Bangor
Nov. 3 1839

Bangor
Nov 5

[illegible] C. M. Rice Jr, Esq.
Milo
Maine

Bangor, Sunday, November 10th 1839

Dear Mother, Sister &c &c. I received a letter and bundle [illegible] yesterday, for [illegible] Walker's office. [illegible] [illegible] Hancock [illegible] school [illegible], last week Friday, [illegible] seen [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] frock [illegible] guess it [illegible] my jacket [illegible] [illegible] short [illegible] small [illegible] the neck [illegible] upper part, and the arms too, while lower [illegible] superabundantly large. Marm don't know how to cut out such a frock as that, I guess [illegible] ~~Opines~~ that the back of it must be cut [illegible] a separate piece, and very narrow at the bottom, whether or no something is the matter of this; it seems to [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] and down the shoulders every way — can you tell how it seems? [illegible]

[illegible]

[illegible]

[illegible] first stentor [illegible] I have got my [illegible]

[illegible]

[illegible] high school [illegible] public select school [illegible]

[illegible] select school [illegible]

[illegible] high schools, [illegible] summer [illegible]

[illegible] schools publick [illegible] management [illegible] good [illegible]

[illegible] female teacher [illegible] now, [illegible]

[illegible]

[illegible] select school [illegible]

[illegible] as yet, and I don't know as I [illegible] better till there is a vacant situation [illegible] know but it would be just as well [illegible] Walker [illegible] is sufficient. I should suppose from what Mr [illegible] [illegible] a situation as a primary school teacher, could be obtained by any person qualified [illegible] vacations — most [illegible] — but —

I want to be at home at Thanksgiving if you [illegible] [illegible]

Yours most affectionately [illegible]

I [illegible] any [illegible], or [illegible] get [illegible] through the [illegible] without [illegible]

[illegible] new woolen gloves, like Joe's, cost $1.50 or so, but [illegible]. I don't know but [illegible] the [illegible] nothing [illegible], must, more, I don't know but I shall get about as far [illegible] this winter [illegible] as to stay here and study Cicero and Greek Reader, &c. [illegible] study [illegible] at home, [illegible] the tuition [illegible] I guess Joseph growled a bit when he found the [illegible] did not come in the [illegible]! he will be disconsolate, I am afraid.

As to composition, I [illegible] know about it, perhaps I might learn to compose nothing in [illegible] study for 2 or 3 years, Parker's exercises in English Composition which [illegible] very much need or at least want, if I rightly understand the subject.

Our class in the School has not had any regular [illegible] teacher hardly for 2 or 3 [illegible] but the [illegible] at the seminary — Smith [illegible] Mass. has agreed to take charge of it and commenced to-day. He is, as might be supposed, a excellent teacher [illegible]. The class consists of a lot of young men and some [illegible]

What has become of your [illegible] Clive? I [illegible] that [illegible]

You did not write any of your [illegible] Charles [illegible]

You try to have me think about the farm and [illegible] but I shall not be [illegible] into a lawyer yet I know!!! I will be a farmer after all the fuss, I guess

[illegible]

Bangor
Nov. 13
18¾

Mr. [illegible]
[illegible]
Ohio

[illegible]

Bangor July 17th 1848 Sun.

Dear Mother and Brothers

I know that I have been extremely remiss about writing lately, I guess that Ann has also, and I really think that you at home, both Mother and Joseph have not been very attentive to such matters this summer. I can hardly remember when we last heard from Milo, and then only little scraps or billets: In fact I do not know that I have received a real, good, oldfashioned letter, on a whole sheet, during this time. Charles has been down here once or twice, but in such a hurry that I have had no time to talk to him. I want very much to know how every thing gets along nowadays; how Mother's health is this summer; how Charles's affairs look and prosper; how the Crops &c. are going to come in, which appears of some importance, even if they will sell for nothing; how the boys do and feel, work and play, &c. &c. I most wish I was at home, whenever I think of it.

Mr. Walker is doing great things this Summer. William H. Wingate, Housewright, with his Apprentice, Samuel Small, has been here to work most of the time since June 8th, and is not near done yet. The Painters have been here a good deal already, but have just begun: The House is to be new painted all over, inside and out, also the fences and barn &c. &c. &c. &c. I have been pretty busily employed most of the time out of school at work in the garden, or on the House.

There was a vacation in all the Schools from July 3d to July 13th, one week. I employed it principally at work for Mr. Walker about the house &c., got to be quite a carpenter. Expect to be paid for it by him. don't know how much. Worked pretty well, 13 hours per day.

We have had a good deal of very hot, sultry, unhealthy weather here this summer. Such weather is much worse here than at Milo, I think. Sweat 6 hours in the Schoolroom, go to work and sweat, go to bed and lay awake and sweat; Hot, Sweaty, Tired, Sleepy, and foolish all the time. Very poor time, weather, and chance to study much, at least to really learn much.

James H. W. has been about sick for some time a while ago, and also is Sam. Small carpenter. And for 2 or 3 days past I have been most sick myself. neither worked or studied much. One awful hot day, got very hot indeed to work hard. and then washing me in a hurry to go to school, cooled me so quick or something, that I caught cold I expect, and been most sick since

Have had a very bad head ache, neck ache &c. My head feels as if it had too much blood in it for comfort. has for about 3 or 4 days [illegible]

My hair has got very long, I dont know, but that is one reason of it, I have not got money enough to get my hair cut!!! what shall I do?

Tues. July 2[?] (Brother Charles just called here, left a letter &c. very glad to see it indeed. I shall have to scold that [illegible] though for not writing more, I dont know what his hands do, but his fingers are lazy, dont write.

I have about got over my late serious and alarming illness, in the back of my [illegible] I staid at home all day Sunday, with my head as perpendicular as you please, [illegible] Monday. I went to school in the forenoon. the room was very damp after the rain caught more cold and had to come home before school was done. did not go in [illegible] took medicine &c. My neck has got pretty limber now. If I dont take more cold I shall be well enough soon. Guess I shall not go to school till [illegible] though.

Isaac [?] Bangor July 1844 [?]

Joseph is in a fuss for "them Compositions". I will send him some Documents [?] to suffice him a little. The Compositions are so very valuable, I wont do to trust them by the ordinary conveyances. I will bring [?] them when I comes, likely. Write as soon as possible to let me know if you are satisfied &c.

Mr. [illegible]

[illegible] Me.

Bangor Sun. May 8th 1842

Dear Folks! I had quite a letter written & was going to send by Charles, as I told you I most unfortunately lost it somehow or other. However there was no name to it any way, so if any one finds it it will do them no good. By the way, I lost Lucy's beautiful excellent pen, I dont know how, when I first came here, Beg her pardon. Again there is no kind of a Table in our room, and no chance to write except on a book or so, without going down into the Reading room, Moreover, Another time I dont ever have any time to write

I dont know as it would be worth the while to write over again what I wrote before even if I could an could remember

Yesterday my economy be having been overcome Ann's arguments and Et ceteras, I spent upwards of $ 8,00, of which I almost repent already, some of it

I bought A Cloth Cap $ 1,50, A pr of Drilling Shirts for $ 1,50. A Ready made Vest $ 1,87½, ½ Doz of Linen Collars $ [illegible], I had bought before an India rubber hat and a pr. of Suspenders &c &c &c Oil Cloth Jacket .,75 &c

I have rec'd for my work but $ 6,78, as yet, about 9 Dollars more due. The Company, Cushing and Sheldon, that is, are just as good as Gold, I suppose, & perfectly willing to pay all their hands in Cash. and do frequently when any one wants money for immediate use, now, before work is done. Sheldon has a Store here and likes to pay the men out of that. but just the same as Cash and is as cheap as any one could buy for the Money for the sake of selling goods you know. So they say and I guess tis so so I told Eldridge yesterday, that I wanted some money & he gave me a V$^{rs}$ Bill and told me I might take up as I pleased at the Store, at Cash price, exactly. I went there and got a Vest pattern $ 1,00, Silk handkerchief &c. ,50, [illegible] ,17

Two men, Cushing & Co of Frankfort and Sheldon of the Firm Kimball & Sheldon of N. York, both N. Yorkers, Kimball lives there and Sheldon here; have bought all the Logs in Kenduskeag to be delivered at Drummond's Mill pond just above the City, The Sellers running them as far as there, doing the river driving. Our business is to take them there, turn them out of the boom, over the Mill dam, down to the City, through 3 bridges into Mr. Boom where we raft them together with our rigging, or rope, or wooden things They are then rowed in rafts to Cushing's to his mills in Frankfort, Sheldon's to Emery's Mill Hampden. This is a Separate business, requires those who are

Pilots, & acquainted with the river its ^various^ Rocks, currents &c &c
Cushing, runners have 9/s per day.
Mr. Eldridge our ~~Foreman~~ is a very fine man, I think, an old Sea Capt. and a Blacksmith & ~~Ext~~ Brewer. He is a Temperance man and a member of Cong. Church. The men all like him though they say he is "straight as an H."!.
Sheldon is a real clever looking little ~~man~~ ^fellow^, about as big as Eliab, and a very boyish look, though his face is covered with black whiskers!!.
As for the work, I suppose it is pretty hard, at least it is so called, though I dont know as it is harder work than farming if folks work smart. I make out to get along very well with it.
As for getting sick, there is no necessity for being alarmed. I have got a ducking several times, but I really believe it is a benefit rather than otherwise, if one does not take cold. I think I have felt better for it, change my clothes a little, put on a dry woolen Shirt.
The worst thing is, the work makes me sleepy, go to work at 5 A.M. and work till about Dark 7½ or 8, if I want to go go to meeting I feel so kinder tired and dull. I cant more than half hear ~~or~~ feel, if I dont actually get asleep. Terribly sleepy in Meeting this A.M.. I dont know but it is a retribution to me How much I have, if not dosed away the time, minded everything but the preaching in meeting. Now I want to hear, I almost Cant I mean it bothers me.
Wednesday Eve. Rec a bundle brought down by the [illegible] very acceptable. Coat, Stocking, & Shirts. Or very little piece of a Letter, better than none though I do wish you would write good long letters, Mother, I dont think you write to your children as much as you used to a few years ago. I suppose you have so much work to do. I hope Doctor will get [illegible] and take away the Baby, then when Lucy gets smart, you must have a resting spell.
Charles Wyman & Lady & 2 children are here tonight, came in the boat, I have not spoken to him though.
Franklin House is crowded full, every night, 2 ^or more^ boarders crowded into a poor room, 2 in a bed, Great mind to [illegible] a new Boarding house! Old N. England is the Washingtonian House now

I have read Lucy's letter to Ann and am rejoiced by it.
I think I am really rejoiced to hear of Eliab's conversion.
I have often felt Anxious about Eliab, even when I neither
felt, cared, nor thought for my own soul
Deacon Brown of Brownville is down here now, to see about
their lumber, I suppose, stay a week or 2, He boards here.
He says there have been 30 or 40 hopeful conversions, [East part [illegible] in Milo] mentions
several.. says that Charles appeared to be deeply interested.
I do hope Charles will listen to the strivings of the Holy Spirit.
Will give up his heart to the Lord. He has surely seen enough,
to know the utter vanity of all worldly things.
All [illegible] is required is just yeild. give up the heart to God.
It seems as if now was, emphatically the Accepted time of Salvation
I hope you will all pray for me, too, I know you do.

Wd. &c.

Isaac Aug 1 - 1842
Bangor

| | |
|---|---|
| James M Searles | 5,00 |
| Anna M Metcalf | 2,50 |
| Isaac S Metcalf | 1,00 |
| J M Metcalf | 1,00 |
| Lucy H Metcalf | 25 |
| Eliab W Metcalf | 50 |
| | 10,25 |

[illegible] thirty

A very little piece of a Letter, better than none though I do wish you would write good long letters, Mother, I dont think you write to your children as much as you used to a few years ago. I suppose you have so much [illegible] to do. I hope Doctor will get money and take [illegible] the Baby, then when Lucy is Smart, now must have a resting spell.

Charles Wyman & Lady & 2 children are here tonight, came in the boat, I have not spoken to him though Franklin House is crowded full, every night, 2 or more [illegible] crowded into a poor room, 2 in a bed, Great [illegible] a new [illegible] house. Old N. England is the Washingtonian House now

Bangor Wed, eve. 24th

Dear Folks!

I received your letter, to night by Mr. Cutter, very gladly. You do not say whether you see the bundle, concern, that I sent up, last week by Russel Kittredge. The trunk came safe to hand, Friday, I believe it was, although I did not see the one who brought it down. You sent down some dirty dickeys, I believe, It costs money here, washing, does. I lost the Bosom, I brought with me, took it off and put it in my pocket when I went to work, and somehow lost it out, I suppose, into the water.

I have just been up to see Ann, and got a letter she had written, and the Money from Boston which has just arrived at last, 70 Dollars. Herewith enclosed, 13 Bank of Bangor Bills. D. &c

&c, &c, &c

&c &c

P.S. You worry yourselves unnecessaryly about me and my work, I guess, Mother thinks I am where I don't belong. I just begin to feel at home. It seemed a little odd at first, but come to get a little acquainted with the business and the folks, it is considerably pleasant.

Mr. Eldridge or Aldridge, the Foreman, or Boss, or Old Man, is a very fine man indeed, I think, Very pleasant and so forth, but, straight as H,, as the men say, He belongs over in Brewer, is a Temperance man and a Pious man, Cutler is a kind of a Sub, to have no control over the business and no responsibility,

It is a Company concern, all the log owners on the Stream, principally, Kimball and Sheldon, agents of a great Mass. Co., and Cushing of Frankfort, — Dinsmores, Billingtons and every body else, Each drives his own logs to our Boom up in Drummonds Mill pond, just above the City, where the Co, through their agents, Aldridge takes them, turn them over as we want them, drive them down through the 3 bridges

[illegible]

into our Boom, just below the lower bridge, in the stream,
where we raft them, by means of small wooden wedges,
driven into each log with an axe, and an immense quantity
of rigging 'tigging', or small ropes, when each owner
takes them and runs them to Hampden or Frankfort as they
want them; 100 or 150 logs in a raft.
It is a tall consarn, there are 20000 logs in num-
ber to pass through our hands, We have 6 batteaux, cost 100,
an tremendous quantity of rigging, large and small, (One man
furnishes 3 tons at 9 cts pr pound,) (12 ares) pick poles innumerable
It is pretty hard work, I suppose, so called, but I
get along very well with it, so far, at least,
I got one ducking, the other day, part of one, 2 or 3
have been in all over, Aron Hill got a real sousing one
I have been writing as long again as I intended
and have wrote nothing either hardly I believe.
I attend meeting constantly Sundays of course, an
evenings when I can get a chance. We work generally
frequently, when the tide favors till 8 o clock, sometimes till
9.

Isaac Apr. 27th
1847
Bangor

Isaac Apr. 27th
1847

Exeter July 4th 1842.

I do almost wish I was at Dover to day; I suppose there are Some folks there that I should like very well to see, should'nt wonder;

I am afraid the Shower to day rather troubled some folks. There is a great meeting yesterday and to day in a grove, 4 or 5 miles from here, west of this town or edge of Corinna. A new sect. Hambletonites, from an old Elder Hambleton who has some queer notions and new lights, and many followers, Lysander went up there yesterday; says there was more than thousand people there, and about every one got thoroughly soaked in the rain; some mud too, incalculable injury done to White dresses and silk bonnets!

Mr. Cutler & I went down to the Meth. Quar. meeting in South Corinth or in Levant. The road is some miles on the line between 2 towns, The meeting was in a barn opposite Robinsons tavern; barn full, good many. Mr. Browning an Englishman, on this circuit this year

preached A. M., and the presiding Elder

Nickerson, P. M. both pretty good,

for Methodists. 6 or 8 miles, very pleas

ant ride, but muddy. Mr. C. showed me

where Dr. Gale used to live. A ruinous (

uninhabited, little old house, but on a very

pleasant and highly cultivated ridge of land

South west part of Corinth.

I suppose you lived there once Mother, did you not?

Sunday before there was no meeting, except a

Hambletonite one, at the farther end of the [illegible]

That day Mr. Miller said there was quite a lot of Roy[illegible]

alston folks together.— 3 Messrs. Jacobs were here

Mrs. C's cousins, 2 just from Mass. One, Sumner is the

Celebrated Thomsonian physician, of Springfield Mass.

not the Cl[illegible] one Isaac Jacobs. but just as full as tall.

He used to be a little white headed chap round

these mills. Went to Mass. 8 or 9 years ago, with nothing

but his profession, as [illegible] — from Uncle Isaac, is now rich

Owns a great Establishment, 12 acres of land &c. $7000,

in Springfield village (10,000 inhab.) Keeps 6 or 8 very

tallest horses, practice extends over all the western

part of Mass. from Worcester to N.Y. and Vt. state,

Subdued prejudice, used up the Regulars, and got his name up, very highest round. Going to take his oldest brother, Mr. back with him head servant to look after his farm & stuffle.

Mr. Cutler had a letter from Royalston lately, his father is dead, also Luther Richardson and others that I neither know or remember.

I like my work pretty well. It 'grees with me 'zactly to work nights; always felt best after supper you know, and all night. Never sleepy. Begin my days work at 5 P.M. or immediately thereafter. (Supper little before 5. Breakfast ditto [illegible] 12.) Go up to the house and eat at [illegible] Get done about 5 or 6, A.M. and go to bed, get up before [illegible] Sometimes sooner if the Sun shines too hot on the roof!

P.M. till 5 lazy, except hoe the garden &c. Dont work any Sat. or Sun. nights, but tend Sat. P.M. & Mon. A.M.

I have sent down and got my trunk from Bangor, but I find that Charles has not been down, or at least has not been to the trunk, and I have no key to it! There are some things in it that I want & also some things at Milo. If some of you are not coming over here visiting before haying, I wish you would take immediate measures to send a bundle over here. This could be done by the Stage

or, which would probably be the better way, I could easily get a bundle, directed to me, and left at the Franklin House.

Mrs. Anna M. Metcalf
Milo Me

Exeter NH
July 8

Isaac
July 4th /42
Exeter

1.50
67

Exeter, Sabbath. ~~July~~ Aug 7th 1842

I expected to have received a letter from home last week, but did not. I sent a letter a week ago last Wednesday, but as afraid you did not get it as it was sent to the Post office in a private conveyance.
Its principal object was to find out whether you wanted me to come to Mi[illegible] to help do the haying. I take it for granted you do not, or you would have [illegible] or come after me before this time. Most people have got thro' haying about here, & I guess I have too

I carded nights all the time 4 weeks, the fifth week three nights & three days, and last week I did Mr Cutler's haying, he having one or two hands to help me while he and Lysander were occupied in the Shop.
It took hold of me pretty hard at first. My hands had become so very soft & tender, working only in the Oily [illegible] of the Mill, that I blistered them before noon, knowing, quite badly, and they were some sore in a day or two. Besides this, perhaps I took a little cold, I kinder sore and stiff all over, for a day or two, when not sweating. However I worked it off, & in three or four days felt better than before. did not tire me to work a bit.
Monday, Man & boy to help me, mowed about all day, Tuesday, mowed [illegible] in the forenoon and in the afternoon raked it all up 15 pretty large cocks. grass thin, ground rough. Wednesday mowed in the morning, opened [illegible] all the hay. & Mr. Elijah Crane with his horse team helping get in 7 loads. He pitched on and I off. 5 loads ours, and 2 of his besides raking up one load for him. 3 of us. besides Lysander raking after, P.M.
Pretty good days work was it not? fifteen hundred at a load, at least.
In the afternoon I stuck a pitchfork tine into my leg, just by the knee, considerable. after supper it began to be sore, swell up, lame, stiff, when I went to bed it was much swelled all round the knee very sore, hardly bend my leg at all, very lame, expected I had got to have a lame leg, perhaps be laid up for a spell. But (Mr Cutler's folks are Thomsonians) I bandaged it in flannel with the miraculous Hot drops, rubbing some in well, and truly wonderful to relate, it actually drew out the cold, took away the swelling and soreness and in the morning, my leg was about well!!!!!!
I do actually believe that without its application I should have had a lame leg.
Thursday I worked for Mr. Crane. for his work the day before.
Mr. Elijah Crane is a very fine man, very smart worker indeed in these parts but he has his hands full this year, Selectman, Sup. School. Com. Administrator [illegible] Mr. [illegible] estate, about which there is a good deal of fuss. building a new house just like Mr. Cutlers, 2 carpenters all summer) a large farm and business to carry on, all himself. but he is good for it. also his wife Julia Barker used to be. This preceding is only a digression, for the purpose of introducing to your notice, his horse team. He has a couple of small round, tough little horses, valued at about 50 apiece, [illegible] done all his farm work hauled the stones for his cellar &c, and been to Bangor in a team 1st time, this summer, sleek and fat all the time, bright as a dollar. [illegible] riding round [illegible] Would [illegible] think so do it? Horses are very low indeed, no market for them down east [illegible] sold this year. [illegible] have to go to the West Indies.

But Friday and Sat. I had to go into the Shop again, as Mr. Cutter was most sick, Rheumatism in his back, bad. They were very hot, sultry days and the close, confined air of the Shop after getting a full mouthful of the fresh, open air of all out doors, haying, was almost enough to suffocate me made me, fairly feel sick. I talked very strong of taking a regular Lobelia! but was cured not by steam but shower baths. I had a cold, and in my head, felt too full of blood. Pulling out one of the plugs under the flooms, under the mill, afforded an excellent shower bath.

I am retained to take ~~care~~ charge of the Shop all this week, as Mr. Cutter is going to Bangor tomorrow, and after that has got to go to Newport, and I shall have the finishing up of the Carding mostly, get about through with the carding this week, next week Mr. C. and Lysander will go preparing the fulling Mill fixing up for the Clothdressing business.

Mr. Cutter says if I will I might stay after this week, reaping will then be coming on, every body reaps grain here I can find good chances to work out by the day reaping, if I wish to. I dont know, perhaps I shall come home in a week or so, to bring this letter to you, mei manu. but I thought I would write a little towards home to day as there has been meeting I could attend, and I felt rather homely

There is a sort of Meeting up to Henry Hills corner, one of Millers lectures read by some one, but I concluded to stay at home. By the way the Miller doctrine is making quite an excitement about here. many believe in it. perhaps most would think rather favorably of the subject, but some of the wild ones, (always some in every thing, you know) are so very about it. Even, "Young men see visions & Old men dream dreams," every thing, almost. Lots of dreams. One Man, Hall of Garland walked 7 miles with an Angel, in a vision, many things revealed &c.

James, if the Judgment &c. is before the Millennium, what mean the thousand years after it is said that "Time shall be no more,"? ~~it does not~~

Mrs. Upham & Joseph have today started for Mass. to go in the Boat tomorrow. It is really astonishing how that Woman has acted, and the State of matters between her and Mr. Cutters family. She has not been into Mr. Cutters or spoken to any one of family, even her own sister, since I have been here or months before and that too, living in the same yard, passing constantly by the open doors & and windows, perhaps seeing every member of the family 20 times in a day. The family all take great pains not to trouble or intrude upon them either by presence or words in any way. It must make Mrs. Cutter feel disagreeably, her face shows it when she turns away her head as Mrs. Upham passes the open window where she is sitting. Mrs. U. has also taken me into favor in the same way. I believe, even been at the pains to circulate a few lies about me, although I have taken care not to offend her not-bessly, at least, by sins of commission.

Tues. eve. (Aug.) 9th I have just received Joseph's crowd-
ed letter, for which, all due thanks. I am better this week.
Did Charles work enough to pay his expenses? Did his work make
him sick? why did not he take a dose of Lobelia or Hotdrops?
What makes ye behind with that little patch hoeing?
Eliab why do not you look after those mischievous little foxes.
So it appears that "Joseph L. S. is fairly setting up for himself." is
he 21 this summer or next? Six month older or younger than I am?
Is it a real "they say" about Chris Hamlin-also? It strikes
me quite forcibly as a little queer; but on second thoughts perhaps
it would be a very suitable match.
I guess I shall not go a fishing quite yet. perhaps the Bar-
kers will not go, David is much better. Mark Barker
is going off to Sea though, right off, to Europe, probably.
I guess I shall come home an get the Shirts, perhaps before
I send this letter.
You ask if I am going to be a Methodist. I believe I shou[ld]
have no objection to being called or being a methodist, but
I am not an Episcopalian. I admire & respect both the
Methodists and their doctrines generally; it is true there are
men, ultra, unstable and imprudent, of more zeal than judgment
every where; and of course very many among the Methodists.
but Methodism, true Wesleyan Methodism is extremely
liberal, ready to yield every thing and in every thing, except
"Christ and him crucified." That is the only tenet.
~~which is the real tenet~~ which is the real "sine qua non" of
Methodism. It is not a quarrelsome or even sectarian
Sect, witness its relations with ever the Church of England.
I find no fault with either Methodists, Baptists or Congregation-
alists on the score of doctrine. I have a faculty of harmonizing
them all, as they are now held, by the most enlightened at least of each
sect; but I dislike the constitution or form of Church government
as it is called of one. And am very much opposed to the Close
communion of the Baptists, but even these distinctions are
I hope, fast melting away. I see by the papers that a
Cal. Bap. church in Amesbury Mass. admits members with
the [illegible] ing of communion with other Evangelical Churches.
Lysander wants much to know whether there are any
blueberries this year, and when they will be ripe. He has
a good deal to say about the going a blueberrying. was much
pleased with his visit to Milo last Summer, I guess.
I cannot tell whether I shall come home this week or next
or not till sometime later. I guess I will have a talk
with Mr. Cutler tomorrow morning. I have pretty much
the whole care of the Carding business, this week

Isaac July 7
1842
Exeter

Exeter

I intend is a homesick or (work) this winter, except evenings. & no room

Susan ... that trunk very much. I am writing Master Sat. A.M. Sash went to ...
Several Academy scholars from ... Street, Enfield, Grant, Brewer, Watters, Exeter, 3 ...
those live here, going to me. Nancy Carpenter. E.S. & M. Edes. Cain. ... &c.

As you said I must write, I spose I must. perhaps I shall have no better time than today as it is Thanksgiving and I do not keep School. I have nearly 70 scholars already and more next week, no large ones yet hardly,

It is a case of a School, so many & about all of a size, a witching uneasy set of little rogues as can be imagined. I never see such a task, it tries my patience much. I hope to get them regulated, a little in time. I hear 25 or 30 classes per day, mostly large, some near 20 in a class.

I board at Mr. Parkers! Circumstances prevented Mr. Stevens from boarding & Mr. Edes had spoke to Mr. Parkers, & I had ~~to there or be careless~~. I have here no room to myself which is troublesome. chamber is cold & cant write or study there. 10 oclock is the family bed time & I cant conveniently set up longer which makes short evenings. Monday eve I went to Deacon Carpenters. a very select party! Sash, Stevens, Foss & Holmes girls. Elbridge Carpenter there. Seth, Susan, Ably, Nancy & Nathan I like the family very well. I got back before 12, but found the door buttoned me out! ~~no trouble~~

Mr. Parkers' Thanksgiving sermon Abolition. "Remember those in bonds as bound with them." I dont know how liked.

The Sash has less 20 scholars. Stevens is going to College

Not much Thanksgiving here. Dinner at 12 & I got mine cold besides. no great loss though! Say their thanksgiving after Donation day. (Next week thursday or week after.

I want my things in that trunk much some

Sabbath, 10th Quite a snow:- very ... S. E. Drake of Garland, preach to day,
World's Conversion, —— Millerism.

Seney. — Some Saturday, when pleasant & good Sleighing, you may expect Messrs. (Tash and Metcalf down to your place to see the folks) and spend the Sabbath. ——— A word to the Wise, &c.

[illegible]

Isaac
Foxcroft '42

Brunswick, Oct. 27th, 1844

Dear Mother, Brothers & Sisters

"Why don't you write to me?, !!!

I have been very impatient to hear this long time from home, and have got most tired of waiting. I wrote to Foxcroft, Case, one week after I wrote home, and received an answer today; which almost provoked me, or rather perhaps that I did not from Milo.

I suppose however that you are all extremely busy, & in a 'desp'ut' hurry, bother, turmoil, and fuss &c. &c. about the 'moving', and every thing else. I almost fear I am a little too selfish to want you to leave your active employments, & especially your never end ind hurry to write to me, who am here like a bee in a hive, in the midst of the 'riches of the mind', with nothing to do but to study and read; albeit College is not considered a very happy place, 'except by those who have left it'; and the desire to hear from home, and to know how every thing progresses at the old place, amounts almost to a mania in some cases, at times.

Although I have not heard from home yet, I could not forbear the temptation to write again, especially as Stevens intends to go home in a week and I can send by him, at least as far as Foxcroft. The Sabbath I believe is not generally considered by Students as a very agreeable portion of time. They have to get up for prayers just the same, and are obliged to attend Church all day which is thought a real penance, and I am almost disposed to allow it. In the first place, the Students are all obliged to sit together by classes in a gallery of the church, and the seats are I believe without exception, the most uncomfortable I ever saw.

And the preaching is almost as bad. Parson Adams is an extremely dull, prosaic & monotonous speaker with a constantly similar concatenation of ideas, and a continual lullaby tone. I dont know but I am too severe, but I really think they ought to have a better man in such a place, if for nothing else, even on account of the Students; it must be important to exercise a good influence on those who will so soon have so much influence themselves, either for good or evil. Students will appreciate good preaching as quick as any class, but none will sooner take disgust at poor. I could but think as I looked round the gallery to day. The Freshmen looked about as unhappy a set as could be, they have n't got broken in to it yet; the Sophmores & Juniors mostly, part come in and compose themselves to sleep on the hard seats as comfortably as possible, and the rest open their book under their cloaks, and read as unconcerned as you please; while the Seniors, who have the best seats, and whose dignity would be sullied by either of the other modes of killing time, 'grin & bear it', as 'by long experience taught'.

Sabbath evening is by almost every one spent in getting the Monday morning's lesson, while I who always do that Sat., take the occasion, it seems, to write a letter home.

The state of Religion here is very low indeed. There are but few comparatively professors of religion, and many of them no one would suppose to be. There is a Society called the 'Circle' which I expect an invitation to join soon; it meets for prayer &c, every Sab. morn, every Sat. eve, & every other Wed. but the attendance is from 1/2 to dozen, & not more than 15 or 20 if one of the Profs. lectures before them. The Circle has borne the imputation of being a Leucinian foil & many of the best in College, Athenaeians would not join. Of the last graduating class 3 or 4 now studying for the Ministry never attended it. Its President now however is an Athenaean.

By the way, the decision, to be made this term, which Society to join, is somewhat important, & quite perplexing. If not, as some pretend, it decides ~~the~~ ones character for life, it certainly does, in a measure, one's companions and friends. I suppose there is not, in reality, much, if anything, to chose between them. The Peucinian is the oldest, and, perhaps, the most influential; the Athenaean the most active, and, perhaps, the most prosperous. The numbers of the College Societies differ not much; the members of the Athenaean have, it is said, taken the most prizes lately.

The common amusement here is to do mischief. breaking windows is universal. You see all damage to College property is averaged and comes charged in every ones term bill, amounting usually to one or two $. per term apiece, for 150 or 200 students. One man is employed about all the time in setting glass; the students call him a Prof. & say his proffessorship ought to be endowed. As it costs himself nothing, no one hesitates to throw an apple, an umbrella or a stove through a window, if it so pleases him. Sometimes the Freshmens windows are most all broken in a night. Kicking down doors is a favorite amusement with some. Every one would prefer to pay an average damage of $5. pr term, rather than to inform. Canis Facultatis, or faculty dog, the name applied to informers is the most opprobrius epithet known. Some of the better part of the students express their disapprobation of such state freely, but no one dares break through it. The first of this term, the dome & steeple of the College Chapel was sawed & thrown off one dark night. The faculty have made extraordinary efforts to discover the perpetrators! Every Student has been called up & cross questioned about it to no purpose, & it will probably be perhaps 10¢, in the average bill. I dont know how many knew who did it. Luckily I did not.

I wish you would send papers to me, weekly I cant get any to send, have none here I mean to take one next term. Write to me all of you. frequently

Sabbath, Nov. 3. I was last night initiated, it is called, into the "Circle". The Candidates pass a formal examination of their religious experience & faith in the fundamental doctrines of the bible, before they are voted in. It is something like a Church. 4 out of the 8 who have entered Sophomores this term joined last night, only 2 of the whole Freshman Class. Had I better come home before finishing commencing School at Bang? If I do I can't stay here more than 3 weeks longer. Will Charles be down about that time? I have had no washing done this term, & shall want to send some clothes home at any rate. I hope you will write as soon as next week at any rate, or I may have started before receiving it. Shall I go by Steamboat, it will probably run? I hardly know what to think about starting soon enough to go to Wils before my school. I don't care very much about it. I shall want some washing done, though I have been rather saving, & might get along a week or two. Write about it.

Miss Anna Mc[illegible]

Simeon
Oct 27th /44.
Rec'd

Bangor Dec 30th, 44

Dear Folks

On coming home from my writing school tonight, I found a bundle for me, having arrived during the evening, while I was absent. It contained the old coat which is certainly very acceptable, though I have got on very tolerably without it, by forming the habit of going in school without any coat at all, which is very comfortable in a warm schoolroom. By considerable shaking & picking I found some pockets in the letters thereof, — not exactly — but you know. I had got most through reading the letters before I began to suspect that Charles was the bearer of them; & when I did, I at first wondered that he did not stop at the School house & see me, but on second thoughts, I concluded that Citron was with him & they did not want to stop in the rain. They were rather unlucky in starting for such a time.

I am really gratified to think that I deserve such good letters from home, & only hope I shall receive my deserts if they are of such a kind. I suppose it wont do complain now however, if I dont receive them.

The coat is very well, better than I expected, and will do me good service, if this winter. I dont know but I shall have to carry it back to Brunswick, which I had determined not to be worth the while. The handkerchief I needed

The cloak I have not got, & dont intend to this winter. I can get along with out it pretty comfortably. The thick boots I get on without very comfortably, especially since I have got the old on

Excuse this writing, the girls laugh & talk so much I can't [illegible] easy as time

which answer a very good purpose, on snowy mornings, though they were mended in the most bungling manner possible I believe. a great junk of cowhide I guess, boggled on over the old leather. The road here, you know, is always well trodden down constantly.

If Joseph could only find a market for his rare talent of writing exordiums for letters, he might soon make his fortune. Unfortunately it does not seem a very useful science. — I guess he will have a pleasant school enough: it is probably a good deal harder than mine though. His class in Algebra to wit — Albert Cook & Lucy, wont compare with mine of 8, 6 girls & two boys. Also grammar. Who was Luther Kerns teacher? Pass the word, to give him a kick. My blackboard is just big enough for four only. A. Cook, got beyond Arithmetic! I should advise to get him into my first class in Colburn. to him good. Arithmetic or Algebra cant be worth much without that. It is the beauty of these city schools; they have been trained in & to it, & believe in it. Every scholar who studies arithmetic is Colburn; and that first class, who are really good in Algebra, (understood Smiths thoroughly before) all go into it, and it is worth a while, I wish you knew.

I should like to train a class of 40 country schoolmasters about one winter in Colburn's first lessons; it would be worth $ 1000,00 to the State next winter.

Josephs watch, I guess, sleeps cold. Wrap it up in a flannel rag & put it under your pillow. What a boyish school! Mine about 3/4 girls. I guess I must send you Smyths Algebra — It will be good for your $\frac{a}{o}$ quantities!

Joseph can do these chores well enough if he dont have to chop the wood. ... I had to do som thing. If I had not so very little time this evening, (twill soon be morning) I'd be glad to write J a separate letter!

I have commenced my writing School. Have less than 20 scholars, only $1.50 each, & I find all the Stationery.
I buy Writing Books at $.50, per doz. at the Stores they are 6¼ each, I retail many at 5 cts each, Penholders, 25 per doz, retail at 4 each.
I bought a box of pens, 303, for $1,25. They are "Gillotts extra fine" 2 cents a peice, or, 25 the card of 12 & holder. I sell lots, the dozen (cent a peice)
I bought a quart of ink for ,37½. I can supply you all with Stationery, of all kinds. I have also bought two half reams of letter paper, for $1,25 & ,57½, just half the quire price.
Let me supply you all. My The writing School, though it takes time will be no disadvantage to me, in reality, if I dont get much
I was at the "City" Sat. night & Sunday. Next Friday night if favorable, I mean to walk over to Levant, to Cases, and perhaps spend the Sabbath. J. H. Case, teaches at Levant village & boards at home, He was down here week ago one evening & rode back the same night, with a good horse. Started back 11¾ P.M.
I usually sit up till midnight lately, I cant sleep all the time you know. I shall go to bed much earlier tonight, say 1 or 2 o'c
I dont somehow make out Study a great deal.
I hope you will all take pains to write.
I being render many thanks to Joseph for his valuable letter. I hope I shall receive more like it, frequently
I am about setting my scholars to Writing themes & Declaiming evenings &c. This letter looks like a Writin Masters!!! I believe I am doing well about Shirts Linen &c. I should like fine Linen Hollands artificial twice as long as others & I guess round corners.

Dec. 20th 1844

Isaac.

24.87 | 28.23
---|---
| 25.37
| 3.86

47.45
24

1.00
2.00
75
.64
5.90½

386

139.81
83.67
56.14

175
8
14.00

390
1

8 Sheep –
... Etc

140.11

Bangor Jan 12th 1845

I was really gratified last Friday night, Jan. 8th, at receiving a very first rate letter, or rather letters, from Home. Aron Hill called at the schoolhouse just before school was done and left them.

By the way Aron looked as good natured & clever as you please, appeared glad to see me, and offered to carry up any thing I wanted to send up home. I intended then to write a letter to send up by him, but as it was an evening of the Writing School and moreover my eyes were a little sore I did not make out to write.

The letters did me more good than any thing this great while. Especially the History of "Joseph's doings with the Milo Sup. S. Com." which was enough to keep a man from hypocondria for a month even if much more disposed to it than I ever was.

The result I think likely will do Joseph, & his scholars, some good, but perhaps Chadbourne & Macomber more.

There is no trouble about Joseph getting along in any such condition, or in any situation where has to do only with his own sex. He has got a pretty long head, and moreover his phrenological developements give him a great advantage over many [illegible], and, especially over me, in all matters of business. But, the fact is, he is injuring himself far more than he has any idea of, by shunning, as he does, and always has, the society of the other sex. His own reason would show him and in many ways, and he might see, even by a comparison of his own family, if he were acquainted with no others, that females are, in many respects, really the better half of Creation.

I do not mean better in mind, nor do I say better in any respect naturally, (though I do not know but there may be a natural, constitutional, difference in the sexes); but I believe better, purer, and having more of the finer, better feelings of human nature, from circumstances & education. Every external influence (All with them, is not always at work to sink poor human nature still lower. Many things contribute to make the character of females generally purer & better than that of males, so that if their Creator made them as good as the other sex, we may justly conclude that circumstances have made them better. Common observation shows this, and also the excellent influence of female society, especially upon young men. You may be sure to find the young man who is without any Sisters destitute of the better part of human nature, at least if it has not been made up to him in some other way; while a really bad man, who had a good mother, and had been brought up in a family of good sisters and the female society, would be an anomaly. The beneficial influence of virtuous females, or the beneficial effect of their society has never been overrated. The extent of the ill influence of the unworthy part of the sex, proves nothing against the position; in fact it only strengthens it, for it illustrates the power & extent of female influence whether exerted for good or for bad. I do not know as I have succeeded in any degree in conveying my ideas to the paper, but I do truly believe that the society and intimate companionship of the really estimable of the other sex must, of necessity, have an effect to elevate, to soften, and in truth, to ennoble, the minds and characters of men, especially of young men, minds easily acted upon, and in such degree & way as the society of the equally worthy of the other sex could not, if indeed any thing else could. Let then a young man who would form an agreeable, useful, well balanced, happy, character, select

indeed proper & good companions of the other sex, but by all means have them as indispensable to a perfect character and a fair share of the better feelings of human nature, and let him become acquainted with them, intimate with them; let him strive to benefit them, and he can, for they have human minds, immortal minds as well as his own, and perhaps less cultivated, but as capable of cultivation; and he may be sure that his own mind & his own heart will receive at least a reciprocal benefit.

I think our whole systems of education & life are erroneous in the arbitrary distance which they strive to maintain between the sexes, its effect is certainly bad upon one of the sexes, probably both.

The absurd & ridiculous idea or ideas of the so called passion of Love, ideas first perhaps brought into being by the Old Romances of Chivalry, and perpetuated in a measure by our modern novels &c.; and upheld apparently with strange tenacity by all our systems of life, and the forms & ceremonies which regulate all the intercourse of the sexes, are to be reprobated perhaps —

I guess it is lucky that I happened to think of going to bed the other night, or I do not know what would have become of this letter, or what would have been the end of the rigmarole. I can just remember that I began to write about Josephs school, and then about Joseph, and then one idea & one sentence led on to another, not thinking that it was to be succeeded by still another, till the essay or the yarn was spun out to such a length & shape. Looking at it again, I decided it & would have thrown away, but on reflection, I have concluded to send it, for I cannot help believe it contains some truths of a genus which might bene[fit] him if they were of the right species, and he could only [illegible]

mental eyes to bear upon them, and would follow the dictates of his own decisions.

I believe it is absolutely necessary for the benefit of his character that he should mix in the society of the other sex, more than he has yet done.

Metcalfe

Jan 12 1845
Isaac

Bangor, Jan. 17th, 1845.

My school is now just half finished; and so is the celebrated writing school. I am really pleasantly situated here, and have a very pleasant school as well as a writing school. The writing school is really a good one in spite of Joseph's insinuations; it is small to be sure, and at times still smaller, but the scholars are really good ones; and many of them quite good writers; as for the improvement they make, I only wish you could see their books.

There are eighteen in all, but one or two of them for not all the time. They have all paid me but three of them, & they will the next evening. The Stationery for the School would amount to about $3,00; though I bought about $6,50 worth in all including the two half reams of paper. I bought a gross of pens, [illegible] you know for $1,25; I have sold about 50 more of them besides 25 I sent home. I have also sold one doz. writing books, at the enormous profit one cent each, being at that as much cheaper than the usual store price. I bought one ½ ream of paper for $1,25 and one for ,90, and sold one fourth of each to Green who boards here for $,75. I have bought 12 sheets like the last, at Duren's, since the came down and gave ,15 for it,, 30 per quire. $6,00 per ream.

About a fortnight ago, I started Friday night, Jan. 3d and walked up to [illegible], about 7 miles, after school, and staid till Saturday and Sunday at Dr. Case's. They appear to be very fine folks. Isaac M. Case is teaching the school at the village, and boards at home. I went [illegible]

[illegible] Sunday forenoon. He has a pretty good school, but not near so pleasant as mine, larger 60 or 70 scholars, but not so forward, though more so, & pleasanter every way than mine was [illegible] at Foxcroft. His school closes at the same time with mine, and he will go right on to Brunswick.

By the way, I shall want much to go up to Milo again before starting for College, as I dont know when I shall come back, but you see, it will be two or three weeks into the College term, and the classes going right ahead into the every thing, and every thing else doing the Spring term is the worst of all to be absent, and any way will be with a great deal too much to lose, if it can be avoided; so I shall not want to take time to go home after my school is done and as the sequel to this prelude I have the idea in my noddle to start some Thursday night or Friday and go up to Milo & stay till Sunday night or Mon. morn.

Saturday morning. I spread out my umbrella and got behind it, and it carried me down to the City through the snow, just as easy as you please. I found Ann well, but Mr Romney has got the Bronchitis, (a very fashionable disease you know, means that a great man has a sore throat.) so that he dont preach, or go out doors, or even into a room with a fire in it without consulting its thermometer. Grandmother, old Mrs. Marlow, is also quite unwell, has been very sick, but they think is a little better. She looks very miserably & is very weak. I do not believe she can live long. I was intending to stay over the Sabbath, but as the folks were sick &c. I concluded to come back.

Ann has so much to do that she cant even find time to write [illegible]; she promised to [illegible] a letter written by Sat. but had not time & could not find time then. She was pleased with the

letters I carried to her, & wanted I should write to Lucy to write good long letters to her also. She had nothing to write without she had time to tell a real long story &c. &c. The fact is mother, & the rest of the folks, do not like to write letters like Lucy & I. If she did, I presume she thinks enough about a great embroidered, painted, crewelised bed quilt that they showed me there once, to write a doz. letters on't.

Now I happen to think of it, I have got no clean shirt to wear this week. There are collars & bosoms enough and to spare, but no shirts. I expected you would have sent some by Mr. J. Hill, or some of 'em. I had only two besides one on my back when Charles was down here. It would be no kind of trouble however to wear some of them over two or three times more, except that I have formed the habit of going without my coat in the school room, to save such furniture. A white shirt is apt to get dirty in a week or two, in a dirty school room, and it would be a pity if the girls should think it necessary to give me to a shirt!

How would it work to affix, by sewing process, a lot of those old narrow bosoms, that are not worn, hardly fit to wear any other way, upon some of the shirts. I should like some such ones if they could be made to set decently any how. They can't be worn the week & then another over them.

By the way have I got shirts enough to last me a year if I wanted? And is there any good coarse cloth there to make more? Does Lucy walk to school? Does Charles finish off the house? Does that young ox team in the barn find any thing else to do besides eat up the hay, and have a man to tend them? I should think it an uphill business for the owner! No hay to sell?

Susannah has had a headache this week, and is now about sick, and can not go to school, and I am sorry about it.

My College bond ought to have been attended to when I was at home. I forgot it. It must be sent up home, & filled up out, and sent back again. I cant go back to College without it you know. Has not my College Term bill arrived at Milo. It was due in December. I want to see it. Find my expenses) how I got on there. Frank &c.

Bangor Jan. 11
1845 -

Metcalf
Milo

247
34
213

900

Specimen of an introduction

Bangor, Jan. 26th, 1845

I believe I must take the liberty, or rather the opportunity, to write another letter today, as it is Sabbath & stormy, and I happen to be here at home again and not much to do; although I have written once, before, I guess, but it has become a little musty by this time I guess; although there has nothing of interest taken place since, and nothing to mark a mark on the time so we could remember it, except that one Sabbath follows after another.

I ought to have sent up home last week, but Butts, I did not see, and it was so stormy there was no body else on the road, I believe, from so far up country.

The storm & blow, Tuesday & Wednesday filled up the roads [illegible], and so dry that it did hardly get trod down so as to make good roads or good walking before the great rain [illegible]

I need some clean shirts much, I hardly see how I happened to be so destitute. There are plenty of linen [illegible] but only three shirts, one of them has already been worn [illegible] [illegible] & the another is now undergoing the same.

It troubles me to think of that $5,00 I owe to Caleb [illegible], and which was to be paid in three months, which would be in December; I hoped to have enough from my writing school to send it up to him, but have not after paying what I run in debt for Stationery &c. and if I had I want it bad enough for other purposes; however I live upon anticipation in this as in every thing else: five weeks more and I shall have some money: but it also troubles me to think how extremely

will be that supply, when compared with my necessities, You see
I shall get $50,00, or $60, dollars from my school, and I
ought certainly to carry as much as that to Brunswick with
me, to pay all my bills and start me there, without thinking
any thing of the next term, or indeed of any thing else; and
then I truly need about as much as that to clothe me decently
It is astonishing how destitute I am, I believe I never was quite
so much so before. I have no clothes fit to wear into the school
room hardly, much more to go to the city, to meeting, or any body
I dont know hardly how I do get along, I believe I never was though
disposed to think much of my future or of the past, if the present
only slipped along easily; and lately it seems that I am strang-
ly indifferent to the present also, that is as far as regards all ex-
ternal circumstances. In fact I believe I live too much
in myself and am too little affected by other things of any sort.

Wed Eve. After Writing School

I was very much gratified tonight on coming home from
school to find a bundle from home, left by Mr. Cutts; as it
happened I needed it considerable, in the matter of Shirts.
By the way I dont believe I have got shirts enough, if I
should stay at Brunswick till next winter, & you know
it would not be very easy to send; and, if there is any
cloth at home suitable it would be a good plan to have
some made, I wish some of these old narrow bosoms of
which there are so many could be fastened on to some shirts
if they could, there would be plenty of bosoms & collars, I
guess; and I dont know about stockings

I send up that College bond which it is necessary should be filled out & sent back before I go back.

I have got a first rate second class of some 8 or 10 pretty little girls, all about of a size, 8 to 12 years old, to whom I promised to give a present. They are all first rate scholars & I guess it will be as much as puzzle to tell to which it belongs.

Therefore I wish you would send me down somethings as would do for presents. There is a little book, Blake's Geography, used to belong to me would be good if it is around the house.

Tell Elijah that a "School Master" ought to have more eyes in his head than to be run over by any bodies team. What do those little rogues do behind him? or does he turn round so often that no one is ever fairly behind him?

As to Smith's men, will Almeda get her pay? I suppose Smith pays his debts when he is obliged to, but he has the repute of being a hard customer. I suppose she does not their washing. Washing is not part of a laboring man's board usually.

Is not Elijah's school most done? This is the eight week of mine, 2/3 done. How long is Josephs, & what wages does he have? I will send J. some paper when I can without [illegible] it till then let him use the other.

Take care of your taters, they will be high. Any body could get rich here by raising them alone. Milo is too far from City for one to live except by increasing property. People can live easier here.

[illegible] be alarmed at my sitting up late, I go to bed in good season & sleep a great plenty. I have lost 2 or 3 hours in twenty four all winter in sleep, but still I might more appropriately [illegible] to you on that subject. My eyes have been a little sore but are better [illegible]. I [illegible] probably, going up to [illegible]

Sat & Sun. bright sunshine on new snow & I had not been out so much before. I wish you would send me several things that little last years almanac of mine, my pilgrim chart, & Lower pleasant, those old Bond, Cat^g. they are of no use at home, [illegible] only heard the late ones as I send to you and they will be good for me

Isaac
Jan^y 26/45
Bangor

[illegible]

Brunswick, March 9th. '45

I am here at Brunswick, arrived Friday night at 11 P.M. and the way I have had the 'Blues', since I have been here is by no means [illegible], considering that it is me, who am not often troubled with such sort o' critters, you know. However, let me tell you the whole history since I left Home. When I started I waited awhile for Severance and then went on afoot down to Bradford & there waited. Severance got along there at most 3 o'clock, and stopped to bait, said he should go down to Merrill's that night, and in early in the morning. I got a chance to ride down to Merrill's and went on. Got to Mr. Lindley's in the eve. the next morning I waited & waited till I was tired, for Severance to come so I might get my trunks ready &c. At noon walked into the city, and strolled in [illegible] & [illegible] the rest of the time. Bought a Cloak, pair pants, & Vest, of Oliver Dresser & Co. for $16,00. The Vest was 1,25, or 1,00 in Pants 4,50, or 4,00. The cloak was perhaps a little better than those I saw at other places for 13,00 to 15,00, the same sold last fall for 16,00 to 18,00. You see it is not the season for Cloaks to sell, & every one was anxious to sell. This one had been worn a few times, but just as good, price $11,00. I have repented that I bought so valuable one, for I could not at all afford it any how. though it seemed somehow necessary to my 'doing.'

I expected Severance all that day with the greatest impatience, he might at least have sent the trunk along by Cutts. [illegible] Severance arrived the day after, Thursday, March 6th, at 10½ o'clock. So I could not leave Bangor till Friday. The Stage starts at 4 A.M., but the rascally waiter waked me up before 3 ins'ead, so I slept only three hours; the travelling was very bad. Stage went on Wheels all the way, but some of the way, over the Dixmont hills &c. the snow was drifted much much of the way muddy, terrible rough & icy [illegible] sides some times

The Stage was $ 3,00 to Augusta 60 miles, and $ 2,00 from there to Brunswick 30 miles, which is ,50 more than I expected, and outrageously too high.

I rode all the way to Augusta in a single wagon. the regular Coach was more than full, and so they took a wagon beside. They had good smart horses, and changed them every 10 or 12 miles like the stage, it was more pleasant than the inside of the Stage, but perhaps more tiresome, as the wagon was not a very easy one, and most of the way three in it, & fast riding.

I did not have time at Augusta, even to see the State house, hardly any thing else. The travelling was so bad that we did not get to Bruns. till 11 o'clock, instead of 9, so had to stay at tavern

Stage fare $5,00, Foods, lodgings, &c about $ 1,00 more.

So you see I arrived here with less than $ 40,00. !

of which I was owing my Chum, you know, about 3,00, My board in the Club I have paid $ 6,00, Furniture things bought last fall, Postage and so forth, I have paid 2 or 3 dolls. So you can't tell how poor I am. I have not seen my term bill yet; it will probably be about $ 24, or 25,00, besides the Years tuition $ 24,00, which I suppose I shall be obliged to pay whether or no. However, for some consolation hereafter, it has been assigned to me to take charge of one of the Recitation Rooms, which will for a remuneration $ 10,00, though I have to pay one of my Classmates for taking it till I arrived. As the furnace is now broken it is just to keep fire in one room. Coal is used though, which is dirty, Have to build the fire about 5 o'clock I suppose.

The worst of it all is that I arrived here Friday night at 11 o'clock on the same night of the Society Initiations, just a day behind the fair. which am a real Scrape. I would have given $ 5,00 & a good deal would not pay the loss. For it seems I can't join, I lose all the benefits of the Societies until the next term.

I have got my 'term bill'. It says $ ~~X~~,00 or 48,94. !!

Tuition 8,00 } I don't know as there is any way I can get rid of paying
Rent 3.43 } the last year's bills, I shall try hard though. Believe I shall tell
Rep. dam. 1,77 } Much more than usual, too bad. } the Prex, that I cant pay it, should be
Sweeping 1,00 } Woman who makes beds &c. } obliged to go right off & earn the money
Library ,50 } whether one uses reads or not. } and perhaps wont come back.
Monitor ,11 } Monitor receives 13 dolls per term } Much as I could do to come at all
Bell ,14 } Bell ringer receives 16,66 per term. } not to blame for not coming sooner.
Rec. rooms ,5 For care of recitation rooms, fuel & lights, lights never used.
Wood 1,64. Wood is $4,25 per cord, it is a college monopoly. (money was scarce
Books 3,45 I had to buy some books last fall of the College, as you know my
Board 1,72 I boarded a little in the Commons before going to the club.
Chem. lec. 1,00 I suppose I am charged for lectures four terms, all last year
Com. dinner 2,00 Also commencement dinner & order of Exercises, which seems
Ad. standing 24,00 } to be charged to every student, 50 per term, although coming
I have paid } only once a year, & then no student permitted to be present
$2?,00 on my } at the dinner till after he has graduated!!!
term bill, & have } The Chemical lectures are only one term in a year, and then
got perhaps 7, left. } no one is permitted to attend them till his Junior year.

If I can make them take off the last year charges, say 26,25, perhaps I can get along. The next term bill ought not to be but about $15,00. I shall get some 1,00 for building fires. and mean to some for [illegible] school. I [illegible] felt rather blue when I first got here, & heartily wished myself back again, especially being after initiations. & so little money. but I begin to feel a good deal better and am very fast making up my lost studies. 15th was examined on the fall studies & passed fairly. 3 weeks of this term to study for yet though. I board in club as fall, cost then, 1,45 per week. (Have I little idea [illegible]

I suppose you got the trunk I left at Bangor with its contents. You may [illegible] my umbrella. All [illegible] I left it in the bar room at the Bangor House!

you do not begin to guess how I want to hear from home, and all how you are all getting along. Joseph & Elias, I suppose are about finishing their schools, and I want to hear much all how they get through, whether they get their money, how much, and what they are going about now, & for the season. Lucy's school I suppose continues much yet. (Dont work too hard! take your time, Miss Lucy! in school & out. By the way Lucy, sit down in school and write me a real good long letter some day. I dont believe in too much work for too little. I have done too much of it myself already. At any rate "do write" all of you. Mother do write Joseph & Elias, Aim; I want to hear about all your affairs.. & Charles business &c &c.
I am sorry I did not carry you some great foolscap paper to write me letters on this spring. Write soon

Elizabeth Elizabeth Rich Anna Rich Elizabeth Rich

Bangor Bangor Bangor Bangor

A man of many [illegible] commonly make his fortune
Farmington
Framingham

BRUNSWICK
MAR 11
ME.

Mrs. Anna M. Metcalf
Milo
Maine

Jonas
Mar. 9th/45.
Bowd.

Northfield. Nov. 6th. 1847.

Last night I had the greatest feast for a long time. I received a large double letter from Milo, and another similar one from Bangor. I had been anxiously expecting letters for some time. There were more than twelve full pages in the two letters.

You say, Dear Mother, that you do not have so much to write about as one away from home so far. If you only thought how interesting any thing and every thing coming from home, when one is so far away; you would find there was enough to write about. And if you knew how beloved your letters always are, you would never think it not worth while to write them.

You want to know what kind of a man my present Superior Mr. Field is. Hon. Alfred R. Field Esq. is one of the Northfield Fields. I believe I have already written something about him. He is thought considerable of about here. Cousin Joseph especially likes him much. But I do not like him very well. I suppose he considers himself a Unitarian; but he is rather one of the Ultra, Radical sort. a great admirer & follower of Theodore Parker, and R. W. Emerson. A Radical Temperance & Abolition man. as well as in religious matters. I call him almost an Infidel. though. He is a nervous sort of a little fellow, and when vexed he will swear just a little, below his breath. He has had much experience as a surveyor. I do not think very highly of him as an Engineer. He is a little short sighted, quite a failing for an Engineer. He has however always used me very well.

Isaac Nov 6th 1847

You ask how I like the Northfield Unitarian Minister, Mr. Everett.
He is quite a young man, son of a rich Boston Capitalist, & rail
road Stockholder, Educated at Harvard, established here by his
father, a very honest, well intentioned sort of a man,
but without talent, and uninteresting as a preacher.
The Unitarians here, can never do much, there is so much done
for them. Old Pomeroy, I believe his name was, a rich old
rascal long ago, built a fine Church, and set apart
a sufficient fund to support abundantly a clergyman to
preach Harvard theology. People have nothing to do but go
and hear him preach, and keep up old Pomeroy's restrictions.
The Orthodox Clergyman, Mr Jones has been to Persia as a
Missionary, did not succeed they say, why I know not.
For my part I like him. He is a very good preacher.
Aunt Esther has gone to Barnard Vt. to spend the Winter
with Samuel Conant. I wanted to see her again. I
have hardly seen here but a few minutes. I walked
out from Northfield to Uncle Williams, once, principally to see
her, but she had gone off to take care of the sick somewhere
and I did not see her. Aunt Conant I only saw
one day, I was up there when I first came hereabouts.
Cousin Maria is at home, only she is here at Northfield this
week. By the way I ought to call there again to see her
before she goes home. But since I returned from Putney, Thurs.
night, I have been confined every moment almost in the
day & evening in the R.R. Office. I am writing this
only while waiting for Field to come in; as I have
got out of business, till I can see some of his Notes.
Yesterday & today I have been doing Office work, making calculations, plotting lines, drawing
plans, Estims &c. I do not know but I shall do so well they will

want me to stay in the Office most all winter

of land like that is enough to make a man wealthy in dozen years. Why! people do succeed farming on plains, such sandy land as is in Milo. The difference is this. Both cultivate easily. One holds manure six months. the other 60 or 600.

R. R. Office. Northfield. Nov. 22^d. 1847

It is about a fortnight since I wrote last to folks at home, but I suppose, though I visit the Post Office regularly daily, that it is entirely superfluous to expect letters from home for a fortnight to come, perhaps for a whole month. Yet somehow I cannot help writing. Even if I think, from your not writing, that you do not wish to hear from me, I want to hear so much that I cannot refrain from writing. Thursday will be Thanksgiving Day, in Maine, and in the "Old Commonwealth" the same. How I should like to be with you! Will the Bangor Brethren & Sister be up to the [illegible]?

I suppose likely I shall go out to Warwick. The cousins here all go out. Both families, old & young. They are very kind, always ready to carry me out &c. Some of them go out most every Saturday to spend the Sabbath. I went out with Joseph & Jane a fortnight since. Humphrey is to be up from Boston this week. They are determined I shall go. I had about as lief stay here, have the day to myself, hear a really splendid sermon, which our Parson Jones is going to preach. I do very much like the man's preaching; plain, practical, common sense; very little imagination, or eloquence, straight forward ideas, arguments, thoughts; and talked right off, ~~with~~ not read. After all preaching a sermon is better than reading one like Wm. S. Sewall, Geo. E. Adams and most others. Let a man study his subject & sermon just as much, or rather a little more, have it at his command; (notes perhaps but not confined to them, their loss not stop him); and then have the faculty, and train it, and perfect it, of putting forth his ideas in words, as he needs them. This to me seems to be one but, if not quite essential to the successful Orthodox minister at this day. It [illegible] as well as the Unitarian to read off in smooth moral

Essay: perhaps indeed it sounds best so; unless in some extreme case of a man of some splendid rhetorical powers, a natural orator. But a sermon ought not, to take effect, to be read. Whatever others may do, New Englanders will not now, as their fathers did, or as perhaps Scotchmen will now, sit an hour or two hours to hear a man read an dry (musty I almost said) theological argument. They may sit the modern half hour; but how few, even for that short time, really hear! not one in ten, as far as my observation or experience goes. To interest people, to make them hear you, you must talk to them, reason with them, speak to them, not read at them, or as many do merely read in the house where they sit. It was my utter, absolute incapability of doing this, of talking, speaking to people that convinced me that I ought not, could not, be a Minister. Even if my heart & my head were full my tongue would be lacking. I should have nothing to say, that is, no words to say it in. I feel this to be my exceeding great infirmity, and I believe it grows upon me. Perhaps my circumstances are not very favorable to the cultivation of whatever slight faculty of speech I may possibly possess. At College, among so many having the same thoughts & feelings, bound & affected by the same circumstances and influences, within & without, I could of course contrive to express the common stock of ideas, or let others express them for me, so as to get along after some decent fashion. In the circles of domestic life, among old tried intimate, perfectly acquainted friends, I think likely it might be the same. But among strangers, or mere casual acquaintances, all whose thoughts, feelings sentiments, ideas & sensations even, are different from my own, I find it almost impossible to speak even as much as the forms of society require, even to answer civil questions decently.

I wonder what an ~~Essay~~ I have been writing here. Let's see, what was I writing about? O Thanksgiving! I would have procured a team & gone over to Kingston that day, if I could have managed to procure an invitation.

I really want to go over there, but I do not know when I shall.
This business confines me very much. It is next to impossible to
get away for a day or an hour. Possibly one may have nothing
to do just now, but he must be all ready for it if it comes next
minute, next hour, or next week. As for Myself, they seem in-
clined to make a Draftsman of me. You see Engineers all
going off from here on the Mountain Survey, hardly any one was left
who could do any thing. They found out I could use a Scale
& dividers, and in fact I have been in the Office most all the
time since we came from Putney. Should not be surprised from
present appearances, if I were kept here in the Office near all
the time this Winter. On some accounts, perhaps it will be better for me.
I shall get to be quite a Topographical Draftsman. It may
be less wearing than constant exposure to all weathers, though more
constant, day & evening. I find I shall feel the cold more when
I am out. If I had kept right on out all the time I believe I should have
felt the need of no additional clothing, overcoat, under shirts
even a vest, all winter. If I stay in a warm Office most
of the time, I shall need to dress warmer when I am out on Line.

Sat. eve. Well. There was a tremendous rain here
on Wednesday: it troubled people who wished to go home to
Thanksgiving. I went out to Warwick on the Stage Thursday
morning. Mr Parsons & wife & Children went out in the Storm,
Wednesday! Humphrey S. arrived at 4½ P.M. Wed. from Boston.
I went up to Aunt's Tenants' and spent the forenoon. All Well.
Lately heard from Aunt Esther at Barnard, likes well there all well & much pleased
With great effort & much ingenuity, I escaped from Uncle Ben's in time
to meet a positive engagement to Thanksgiving dinner at Capt. Joe's.
Returned to Northfield Friday Morning. Found my Boarding Place upside
down & wrong side out from effects of the great R.R. Ball there held.

I should like to convince Charles of what I have often thou-
ght & perhaps told him, that he does most abominably
underrvalue & considerably misuse his intervale lands.
It seems to me I could convince him, if I had him here that one acre of that
Intervale rightly used was worth more than any other five
acres he has; perhaps as Milo taxes are than the whole the rest.
I should like to show him these intervale lands along the
Connecticut River; have him examine the lands, their prices
their crops. If these lands are now valued at from one
to two hundred dollars per acre: sell quick at that. This
you will remember too is – until the Rail Roads are built – far-
ther from market that you are at Milo. – And most richly
are they worth those prices, when compared with the upland
farms, at any price. Suppose two farms, producing with
good cultivation the same. It makes a great difference
with the profits, and with the real value of the farms, whether
the cost of cultivation is $\frac{99}{100}$ & more, or $\frac{9}{100}$ the value of the crop
But you will say that these Conn. River intervales are much richer
naturally than yours. I do not believe it. I dare you to prove
it – by testing yours with equal cultivation.
One thing for the Intervales here. Hoof of grazing beast,
horse, cattle, sheep or hog, never touches them. They will pro-
duce prime crops without stable manure indeed. Why the Fall growth
of grass left on them every year is worth more than any manuring
you ever gave your land two years in succession. But they do ma-
nure these lands. The secret is not that they need no manure
but that every ounce of manure instead of washing away as it does from
every upland acre into every brook & valley, stays there.
Your intervale may be by mismanagement run out. but if I
wanted to make farming profitable, it would be by a dozen acres of that, rather
than by any upland farm in Milo. And public opinion, not in Milo, but throughout
the valley of the Conn. would sustain my estimate. People here whom Uncle jos-
tles of your intervale farm suppose of course you are wealthy. and a piece

Grace Oct. 22 – 51

1847

I. M. M. Wm. C.
L. H.

Brattleboro is quite a village, and appears to be a very thriving business place. On the other side of the Connecticut river, (which river belongs entirely to New Hampshire) rises abruptly a high hill, thus overtopping, almost overhanging, the village so that the sun usually rises at Brattleboro' a little while before it sets at Capt. Jos. Stevens' in Warwick. Brattleboro' is now the Terminus of quite a number of Stage routes, into several different States; and already the Centre of a good deal of business; which moreover will increase greatly when our Rail Roads are built; especially if the travel of the great west, or even a portion of it comes this way. By the way, Our Engineers, (and who are better judges, or have better opportunities of judging?) think that about the greatest chance for speculation, now in the Country, is at a place they call "Grouts" Grouts' tavern I suppose; which I believe is on, or near the Conn. river, at or near the mouth of "Millers river". It has, I believe, abundant water priveliges, and other advantages "too numerous to mention". It will be on the proposed route just equidistant from Boston & Troy; the great half way house, stopping to dine place &c. besides a junction place of branches. The place has hardly begun to exist in imagination even, yet; and those

who invest there first may realise hundred or thousand fold.
I do not yet know how well to like Brattleboro, not being in the slightest degree acquainted with a single resident. It certainly contains many fine looking private residences, environed with shrubbery. The State Insane Hospital is, I believe, considered the principal thing. The water power used in the manufacturing is not the Conn. river, though I should think it might be, but two or three brooks here emptying into the Conn.
On the west side of the Conn. river, both in Mass. & Vt. I should judge that the land rose very gradually swell after swell, or broken ridge after ridge, away back towards the Green Mts. On the East side, it is certainly abrupt enough down at Mt. Holyoke; at Northfield there is a level plain, one, two, or three miles wide, on the river, back of which rise rough steep hills. Above, in N.H. the hills come clear to the river most all the way from Hinsdale up by Chesterfield &c.
It appears that all of our Warwick relatives, except indeed Aunt Esther, are Unitarians. All Uncle Joseph's folks are very stout ones, I judge; especially Cousin Hannah. I had to exercise all my skill to avoid "argufying the topic" with her. She is about as "tonguey" a woman as I know. Her husband, Albert C. Parsons, I like very much. Joseph A. S.'s wife is a remarkably amiable character. Her name was Jane Wells of Shelburne Mass

I love Aunt Conant, she is so much like our Mother. She is too a very superior woman naturally; but shut up all her life, as if in a quart pot; confined to one little narrow spot & round of duties, thus and so performed; no opportunity to grow, although large-hearted and large minded by nature.

Uncle Joseph is an extremely perfect character; that is well balanced. He is like a Carrot, grown, say in a tin tube, just exactly filled it out, not very large, but perfectly round and true. Who shall say how much the growing up on that little narrow, rocky, ancestral homestead, "those few paternal acres", under the trees his father's planted, and among the rocks where his fathers lived & labored & died, have had to do in the forming such a character as is his? There must indeed have been strength & vigor, & greatness even from the original stock; but the steady integrity, the honest sound judgment which have made him honored and respected among men, the trusted Referee, the just Arbiter, and the popular Commissioner, whence came they else?

But Uncle Jacob, I do love. There doesn't seem to be any self about the man. I want to get more acquainted with him.

Brother Joseph. this ~~Sheet~~ is not much a letter any way. Another is headed "Dear Mother". Perhaps the whole may be subscribed "J. M. Metcalf." You will please read (that is if such trouble be consonant with your wishes, feelings, interests, and time) and offer the same to Eliab and Anne for reading, and then, if you please, see that it reaches Milo, as soon as possible.

It is a long time since I have heard from you. I am anxious [illegible] to do, and that frequently, particularly, upon any or all subjects, business (which I am much interested in), literature, science, politics, anything, thoughts &c. Let the correspondence be frequent, prompt.

Brother Eliab, the same write I also unto you. It is certainly worth the while for both of us, that we keep up a regular, frequent, full correspondence. Nothing shall be wanting to it on my part. We can both find time. We may be hurried, have a great deal to do, and scant time and facilities to do it. I may have to write on a log, by a camp fire, at midnight. But it is best to Write. You know, — No, you do not know, (If you did you would write me) how much I want to hear & know of all your doings, feelings, pleasures & interests, your advantages & your improvements.

Now do w r i t e

Sister Anne. For one who can be so good, so valuable a correspondent as you can, I hardly think you always do all your duty in writing to your absent brothers. I [illegible] want you to consider how much good effect a sister's letters may have upon a young man so far away from home, and ~~from~~ in great measure from ~~most~~ all the good influences of home, friends, and most every thing else, except those contained in letters; and Write accordingly. [illegible] & every thing else will of course be interesting to me. Give [illegible] my best respects to Miss Doe &c. And answer inquiries of Mr. Harlow or any of his family the best you can

1 1848

Dear Sister Almeda, Why do you not write to me? Do you not like to hear from me, or from any absent brother's & sister's, or friends? Do you not think then that I must the same? How long do I be away and never hear a word from you or your Children, except a word or two casually in letters of Lacy perhaps. Do not begin to say that I do not write to you; because my letters are not directed to you personally. I write letters home, that is to the folks at home. Of course all usually read them; They contain all I have to say, or write about. It is therefore just the same as a letter of the size to every one who reads it, separately, if they were separate. You ought to do your part of the writing. I want to hear how all your affairs are getting along, how the Children prosper &c. Do the Children go to school this winter? Who does your Chores &c.

Charles. I wish I had your oxen here; that is if you want to sell them. Or your horse either. Teams, of all kinds are extremely high about here, occasioned partly perhaps by the demand for labor along the Rail roads. Any decent yoke of oxen will bring one hundred dollars, or a decent horse. This Rail road building every one to work that will work; increases the demand and consequently the price for every thing. All sorts of lumber, and even wood, is almost doubled in price.

I believe I wrote you a long story a while ago about your Intervale lands. I want to tell you something else whereby perhaps a comparison of your experience with that of those who know the management of such lands for a century (much benefit). They say here, never plow intervale land in the Fall it is not land ever flowed either. If you ask the Old Men or any

of the river farmers when to plow; one will say not over four days before you put in the crop; another will say two pleasant days is full enough. Even turning in a crop, sometimes done, is never in the fall, I believe. It is very usual to sow Clover. Mow once. (the Meadows are usually mowed twice) let the After-crop lay on the ground till Spring, then plow it in, and sow or plant immediately.

Mother, I do not know about this plan of your excusing yourself from Writing because Lucy writes. If she does well, and writes good letters, it is no reason why you should not also. I want you should both of you write. Let me see, have I told you of Mr. Jones' Donation Party. The last Thursday of December. It was the Only evening I have been out of the Office since we got back here from our Putney excursion 1st of Nov.! Just as likely as not there are some people about here who would like to pull me into Society here. Well, I had previously made up my mind to attend that Donation. But the evening before a Young Gent, one of the Managers or getters up of the affair, took a good deal of pains to introduce himself to me & give me a Special invite. He took much pains to introduce me to some of the Young folks.
I have of course got acquainted hereabouts principally only with those with whom business brings me in contact. the Old Men, Capitalists, business men, &c. I got finely pulled in at Parson Jones' though. An old box was passed round to receive what money contributions might be made. Thinking it a fair opportunity to do I might for support of Gospel. A Salaried Young Man is expected to have money you know. I threw in a bill, only a one. Come to find out the box had been passed round to all the rich men of the town, as there are such, and had nothing in it bigger than a quarter!

Seems to me I want to fill up this page, although I hardly think of anything to write. One thing perhaps I better tell you now [illegible]. I have been thinking that if I go down East in the Spring my brother will probably have to come back to Massachusetts with me. By the way how would it work for my absence one week this Spring to see me the situation on Vt. & Mass.? It is a very rare time for an Engineer to have leave of Absence. Even if there is nothing at all for him to do; he knows nothing how soon there will be, and must remain at his post. My Wages are since Nov. 1st $40 per Month [illegible] they ought to be $50 [illegible] I now do the work of [illegible] wages; but "inexperience" &c. You know —

By & by after there comes settled Cold Weather & [illegible] probably so as to make [illegible] bad, they will reach [illegible] Believe it [illegible] Case. What do they do about the Small pox? Block up all the Roads & Stick up Red Flags before the houses? Who is [illegible] Stevens of Warwick. [illegible] Lumber dealer, reputed a Sharper, hard Case &c. Who is always so Glad to see me, and makes such awkward mistakes in enquiring after the family, my Uncle Charles, his wives eldest daughters &c. When I needed it most, I copied off once a sheet of Genealogical affairs. When getting into circumstances to need it I was thoughtful enough to leave it at home. Why, if I had it here, what an infinite sum of vexation of Spirit, to say nothing of confusion of face, it would have saved me about acknowledging my relation. Really I doubt if I know now the names of one in ten of my Cousins, done the best I could to find out too. [illegible] by direct enquiry you know!

W. J. S.

[illegible] Apl 10, 1849
Aug 15

10

Mr. Chas. W. Rich
Milo
Maine

Isaac Jan. /48

I. S. M. Goffstown March 25. 1849

5

Sabbath, March 25th. 1849

Dear Mother, Sister Lucy and other folks at home.

You can see in the date above when I write. Where perhaps I cannot quite as well explain. I believe it is in the South West corner of Goffstown or perhaps "West Goffstown", New Hampshire. If not within the limits of "West Goffstown", it must be in "New Boston", or in "East Ware". The place is called "Parker's", and it is very near a Post Office called "Oil Mill Village". Perhaps it is enough that it is on or near the line of the New "New Hampshire Central Rail Road", so called; whereof I begin to suspect that I am, or am like to be an Engineer.

There, that will do for a preamble!

Well. Yesterday was Saturday, but I did not get home last night, nor even to [illegible], although I very much expected first of the week that I should. I thought I would not write that I was coming home, and so take you somewhat by surprise; but now I do not know when I may get a chance to go.

I got through on the Vermont & Mass. R.R. about the 15th or 17th inst. For a week or two before I got through, I had little to do but ride round on the Rail Road, perhaps be down at Fitchburg every day, settling up & arranging matters with the Contractors with whom I had to do. Could sleep till 8 or 9 o'clock in Northfield, get into the cars and go to Fitchburg, be there in "business hours" and go back at night! Ride one hundred, or one hundred & fifty miles per day.

I went to Royalston and spent one Sabbath, March 11th. Folks mostly well there. Uncle same as ever. His new wife is a large fine looking woman, I do not judge however that she is in every respect quite equal to his last wife. Samuel is at home, and apparently doing nothing; he is a little inclined to be one of that large class of "Young Men"

2

[illegible] has been disappointed, unfortunate, & afflicted, perhaps.
He and his father, I judge, have done so much that did not profit; [illegible] not increased, and seen others increase by not doing anything, that he has become sort of discouraged about doing anything [illegible] contented to do nothing; which is rather an unhappy state for any one. He has no family, no excitement to stimulate him to exertion. Josiah has been unfortunate, sick, or rather lame all winter. Had the Dysentery last Fall which left him with a weak knee so he could not walk all winter; could not teach or do any thing. Is lame yet though he is better so he has been teaching for [illegible] weeks. Strange the Chap. will do so. He will probably never enjoy good health. He is undoubtedly an excellent teacher but he is killing himself. He must teach, he cannot lift his hand to [illegible]
He was at home the Sat. night I was there.
Mrs Brewer, Harriet, Prescott's Widow, died in Worcester some three or four weeks since. Three Children. The eldest "Harlan", and a lovely boy he is too, Uncle, you know, has adopted for his own. The other two a boy & girl younger, [illegible] death are thrown back upon him. He feels poor, and [illegible] enough for other people & their children, I suppose.
He says he will [illegible] places for the children, if he cannot; it is just as [illegible] to the other Grand parent to support them. Old Mr Jacobs who refuses to have any thing to do about it, unless compelled by Law. [illegible] some one out of so large a family cannot take those children, and bring them up. The thought struck me that Mrs [illegible] of Exeter was the [illegible], who could and ~~would~~ ought to take one of those children. Do you not suppose she would? It is strange what a family that was. [illegible] that there has been but one of the family on speaking terms with [illegible] Mother alone.

I forgot that I had not stated that Mrs Upham, formerly of Exeter, Me. has been [illegible] in Worcester, died there & was carried to Royalston just three weeks after Harriet's death. Joseph Upham was at school at Brattleboro, when she died.

I went to Church at Royalston, Rev. Norman Hazen preached very well. Mr Perkins does not attend Church: has not since Dr Batcheller's death, which you know was very sudden, of Apoplexy; affected him much. I saw Miss Eliza Heywood at Church. very glad to see me, as well as others. I staid Sabbath night at Mr Goddard's.

The next Saturday night I went over to Warwick, having got through with V. & Mass. R.R. and spent the Sabbath. Went up to Aunt Conants' after Church. It was good wheeling every where else but in Warwick, snow drifts so deep, they could not get to meeting. Uncle C. grows more deaf. Aunt is very well. and the rest, except little Susan has a cough. It takes those folks a great while to live a little. Why I can live about as much in half a day as they do in a month. Aunt Conant had been writing to you, and made haste to finish off the letter to send by me. As I am not likely to get home just yet, I send it.

Monday last, 14th I started for Home. Left Warwick early. Stopped at Northfield to say good bye, and at Greenfield, spent most of the day at Fitchburg. Did some think I would go to Royalston. Mrs Clark of Zanesville Ohio, (Ins. formerly), was at Warwick when I was at Royalston, & at Royalston when I was at Warwick: Came on alone, or with some of her children. She wanted to see me: probably remembered me, if I did not her. I would have gone out of the way considerable; but I was in a hurry to get home, and it would hinder me a day.

4 Isaac
March 25 1849

I was going to Worcester, thence to Woonsocket and Providence, then to Boston. But when I got to Groton, feeling in a hurry to get home; I went right through to Boston. Not liking the idea of remaining idle a season or a year or two, I thought, though with very little prospect of any success, for I knew many had tried there, that I would come up to Manchester where a new Rail Road was just starting towards Winsor Vermont, and see if there was any prospect of my ever getting a situation on that. Manchester is a City and a fine great new place, mostly factories, Boarding houses & stores, 2500 Factory Girls. I spent one rainy day there; went into a Cotton Mill, as I had not before [illegible] mill is quite a sight, especially to an Engineer.

There appeared so little prospect for me that I was on the very point, without going out to see Mr Chase, the chief Engineer of the Road in question; of starting the other way by stage across from Manchester towards Portsmouth, to see on the way at Epping, a brother Engineer, [illegible] of P. & C. R.R. who with his wife are particular friends of mine. Thence I was going to Portland and to see if there was any prospect for me on any of the Maine Rail Roads.

After some hesitation, I decided, if it did seem like throwing away a few dollars of expenses, I would come out and see Mr Chase. Reading some splendid recommendations I had from Mr Field &c. with them Mr Chase [illegible] he thought I was perhaps just the man he wanted.

Jonesboro, Union Co. Illinois
Sabbath Eve. Oct. 19. 1851

Dear Mother & Sister Lucy
Brother Eliab & Sanford

I do not know as I have really any thing to write, either new or important. It is very lately that I wrote to all of you; and told all I knew.
However it is Sabbath Evening, only nine o'clock, I am not yet sleepy; but here in my own quiet room, with convenient pen ink & paper silently inviting me to write.
I have just returned from Methodist Meeting. It is the custom here to have one service at 11 A.M. and usually only one in the day. If another at all it is in the evening. The people do not say "Meeting" or "Church" but "preaching" I have been to "preaching" twice today, Morning to the Baptist, night to Methodist. These two are the only denominations here. There are I think no Presbyterians in Union Co. The Lutheran and German Reformed both are occasionally met with through this part of the State. This today is the first preaching of the New Methodist Minister. You know they change every year, and in this State it comes just now. In some respects I do like the Methodists, far better at any rate than the Baptists. Their peculiar organization is certainly an effective one.

Well, I am getting along very well with the respon-
sible duties of my situation as in Charge of Div-
ision No. One, ad interim.
Very pleasantly I have got along one week; though some
of the duties devolving upon me appeared by no means
pleasant. The former Div. Eng. left many matters
of business and finance in very bad condition, which
I had to arrange. There were many jarring interests
and bad feelings previously engendered existing among
the subordinates. A number of these subs, my instructions
made it my duty to discharge and dismiss from the
service of the Company. However I have succeeded in
getting along very pleasantly with all parties, and
I presume should have no difficulty as long as the
money left me by the Chief should hold out.
My health is now excellent; has improved very
rapidly. My appetite is enormous. I had become
very thin, weighed but little over 150. but am now
fatting up every day; and my strength increased
in due proportion I believe.
Three days of last week I spent in riding about,
and shall probably considerable part of this week.
I have got one of the very easiest of ambling
or pacing nags for a saddle horse; It is quite
a pleasure to ride on it — even all day.
The situation, which I did not get, of Division
Engineer was even better pecuniarily than I had
supposed. The salary is $ 3000.00 per annum.
Now that is quite a respectable salary, is it not?

especially in this country where expenses of almost every kind are comparatively low: much lower at least than in Cities.
In fact my present pay, of something over $1500, per annum is very tolerably, or would be if one could live in any decent country meanwhile.
It would make quite an income for any professional man only a few years out of College.
I have got a little bag of half Eagles saved up already which I wish were well deposited somewhere to be on interest.
I got a letter from Alfred L. Holman yesterday, two months & more on the route from Minnesota here by way of Milo.
The poor fellow was rather homesick there I reckon. He has bought land there, but works for Mr. Farber. Says he was green for going.
Well I guess I will write no more tonight, except to ask you to write.
Good bye & Good bye
J. S.

It seems to me you have not written since getting back to Bay
This letter you will perceive is for most of you in particular & Affectionately

J. S.

JONESBOROUGH Ill.
OCT
20

Eliab W. Metcalf
P. Bangor
Maine

Isaac Oct./51.

June 54

Dear Brothers & Sisters

And especially all of you

This small piece of of a letter is hereby written to you particularly especially, and on purpose; not that I have really any thing to write or say, or that I have not already written enough already today; but simply to call your most benevolent attention to the fact of my lonely & desolate condition out here in Egypt all alone, in the hope & trust that your charity & compassion — your humanity even, will lead you to occasionally write a few lines of a letter to this bereaved & afflicted individual. Knowing the consolation to be derived from a timely Epistle.

Most undeniably

Isaac S. Metcalf

DuQuoin, June 11. 1854

My Very Dear Nettie

I am anxious and troubled about you.
Have you decided the great question?
Have you determined to try with His help always to love and serve the Lord Jesus Christ?
You know that it is the right thing to do. — the only thing to do. — Essential to peace and happiness now, — and forever.

You can do it any time. No one can do it for you. And now is the time.
As I have tried to tell you before "Now is the accepted time." Delay is dangerous.
It is making yourself unhappy, and hurting all your friends.
And every delay, every putting it off, makes it harder — and harder to do.

Oh, Nettie, Nettie, I ask you, by the love of Christ, by the worth of your own Soul, by every possible motive, (for all are really on the same side), to decide aright and at once.

Father.

Dear Nettie

Excuse my carelessness in not getting you this yesterday. I did forget it.

All well.

Sincerely
Father

Elyria June 14, 1893.

Miss Antoinette

You were reading Shakespeare. Have you ever seen this Book, Mrs Jameson's Characteristics of Women? You may find it interesting to compare the developement of some of Shakespeare's characters with their delineations by this Author. If so, you will give me great pleasure by accepting the book.

A year or two since, when my Sister was reading Shakespeare, I procured her a copy of Mrs Jameson's 'Characteristics', and got this for myself, in order to enjoy a mutual examination of some of the characters, writing to one another our observations and reflections. And we were very much pleased with it.

All things in it, as in Shakespeare itself, may not be exactly to my taste, or to yours; but it contains much thought and well expressed.

We cannot always in this world find only that with which we can fully agree. May we not therefore, in reading and study, as we are obliged to do

in life generally, accustom ourselves to select and profit by the true and the good, while we pass uninjured by the false and the ill? Must we not do so in reading, I had almost said, all books but One. At any rate, we should cultivate the habit of such discrimination; lest we be like the Sponge, absorbing every thing it finds. Or is that the best example, only taking care to confine it to the purest possible!

Miss Antoinette

I have been much pleased with your character, more and more so, the more I see and know it. I have wanted to become better acquainted. On that account, more than any other, I regret that I am probably about leaving New Hampshire or this vicinity.

May I hope that our acquaintance may still continue and increase!

I dare not think that I have pleased you, as you have pleased me. I have not the capacity of making myself readily understood. I have been perhaps too busy, all my life, in work or study, to have acquired ease of manners or habits of pleasing. My conversation and my manners are perhaps but half formed.

I believe however there is a warm, true heart within for those who can find and stir its depths, a heart as yet unseared and uncontaminated by the accidents of life. Antoinette, may I not

my dear Antoinette; I know you are too good and kind to laugh at me for this; will you not forgive me, and think kindly of me, and invite me to see you, and write to you, and — thank you!

S. J. Metcalf

June 17. 1850

Isaac Goffstown
Jan. 17, 1850
Dunbarton

Miss Antoinette S. Putnam

Isaac Greenfield Mass.
Feb. 21 1850
Dunbarton

Greenfield, Mass. Feb. 21. 1850

Dear Antoinette

I am very thankful for the permission to write to you, and have now an occasion to avail myself of it which I gladly embrace. I told you I thought I should be back this week. I am obliged to deny myself that pleasure. I thought then to complete my business for the present with the N. H. Central R.R. Co on Saturday, but was obliged to be in Manchester Monday and Tuesday. Coming round here, I find it difficult getting away without stopping a day or two with my old Superior Engineer, Mr Field, to whom I was much attached.

I want to visit my Uncle and relatives in Warwick, and now intend to go out there to-morrow and remain there over the Sabbath. My friends there were very kind to me while I was in Massachusetts, and always, and now that I am for once out of business, are inclined to insist upon a visit.

I shall probably be back in New Hampshire next

week, and shall as certainly see Dunbarton, which I believe has become the great point of attraction to me.

It is most likely that I shall remain in N. H. the coming year. I have nothing to do there at present, but the Directors of our Central R. R. have expressed a great anxiety that I should not engage myself on any other Road, and have communicated their wishes to me so very flatteringly that I could hardly refuse. If they succeed in going on with the Road, I can do better there probably than any where else.

But I shall be too late for the mail if I write longer.

Most Sincerely

I. S. Metcalf

Portland, Maine, March 11. 1850

Dear Antoinette

I wanted to go to Dunbarton after getting back from Newport, but could not very well. Arriving at Parker's Friday night, I was obliged to be in Manchester on Saturday, and my time both day and evening was pretty fully occupied. This morning I started by the early Train in haste to get home tomorrow, for I have not heard one word from my brother since I left Bangor, now about a month ago. We ~~started~~ had a very pleasant journey to Newport and back. I started with John Parker, but rode part of the way in company with Mr Steele and others of the Rail Road Directors to point out to them the Route and Line of our Survey which the others were unacquainted with. They all seemed to think it quite essential that I should remain to attend to the Location and construction of this part of the Road. I had on the way some delightful visions of a snug little Cottage in one of those quiet villages, made happy by a sweet and loving wife, as my home and Earthly Paradise for a year or two at least.

I spent ~~thirty~~ six hours in Newport, much of it in explaining to numbers the proposed Rail Road Route, with the Plan, and the Estimates of the Report, with which I was of course more familiar than any one else. In this way I performed my part rather better and more profitably than by an attempt at Set Speeches.

The day Thursday was a very unfavorable one for the Meeting at Newport. The Storm undoubtedly prevented the attendance of hundreds. Still there were probably three or four hundred present, and there seemed to be a very good degree of interest. I do not know what the eventual success of the present movement may be, but it is a very hard time to raise money, especially for Rail Roads, and I am a good deal afraid they will not be able to go on this Season. If they do not, I shall of course be out of business in New Hampshire, and may be obliged to go West, or at least out of New England for employment. I do hope they will be able to go on, on my own account, as well as on that of the Rail Road. I think I can do better there than almost any where else, having a great advantage in acquaintance and the Good Will. It seems very important too that the Road should be built through immediately.

I think I will send you a copy of our Report. You will notice my name favorably mentioned. It is all I wanted or could expect, although almost the whole Report, with the single exception of that paragraph was prepared and written by me, and I made up all the Estimates &c. myself. They were all approved by Mr. Chase exactly as I formed them. Yet the Credit, as a matter of course and custom, goes to the Chief Engineer, who is responsible for the whole. However I expect to be a Chief Engineer myself one of these days.

But the Evenings are short when one does not get Supper till Eight o'clock; it is getting late, and I must Stop.

May I not expect to receive a letter from you at Bangor, where I shall probably remain for a week or two at least.

My kindest regards to the family, and love to yourself.

Yours Truly

J. S. Metcalf

Isaac Portland Me
March 11 1850

Dunbarton

Miss Antoinette B. Putnam
Dunbarton
N. H.

PORTLAND
MAR
11

PAID

5

Isaac Milo Maine
March 28 1850

Dunbarton Milo Maine. March 27. 1850

Dear Antoinette

Your kind letter was joyfully received a day or two since. I was indeed glad to hear from you, that you were still well and happy. I did not get your letter until more than a week after it was mailed, on account of my change of place. My sick brother has moved here, where our elder brother resides, and where Mother makes it her home mostly. If he remains as at present he will probably spend the Summer here. I wish of course to be with him as much as possible, and shall probably remain here most of the time while I am at leisure. My poor Joseph does not get better. He can walk about the room a little, a cane in one hand, and taking hold of some one with the other, but can hardly get over a hearth-rug or an ordinary threshold between rooms. We wheel him about from one room to another in a large easy Chair with three wheels, or I take him up in my arms and carry him about as one would a Child. What an affliction it is for a young man; one too of such ambition, such activity, and such prospects of success. It seems indeed cutting one off from life in the midst of his days. It is wonderful how well he bears it and commands himself; always perfectly uncomplaining, cheerful, even merry. I spend the time mostly in reading, studying, and talking with him, varying it occasionally by a game of Chess or a promenade through the house. I should never tire of his society and conversation

I have been here a little more than a week; came here a week ago last Saturday. I do not know how it is in New Hampshire, but Winter still continues here. The weather is mostly cool; windy, with frequent snow squalls; so the snow, which is two or three feet deep, hardly seems to diminish much. At Bangor however the snow is all gone, and has been for a long time. Here it is good sleighing.

I have been somewhat interested in religious affairs in this town of Milo. There is now no Minister of any denomination; no regular preaching. The Congregational Church is very small and weak; only two acting, resident, Male Members, and perhaps half a dozen females. Several of the older Members have died within a few years, and all the younger ones moved away. The males are both old men. No preaching. Yet they keep up their regular meetings, Society Meetings they call them; and really interesting meetings they are too. Some of the Baptists usually come in with them. The Meetings, by the way, are held in a School house, or the Sons of Temperance Hall. Old Deacon Lee, a gentleman of much intelligence and education, formerly of wealth and political influence, and now I think one of the very best of men, conducts the meetings with a dignity, propriety, and fervency rarely seen; calling however upon some one of the younger men present, (having lost in some measure his own voice and strength,) to read the sermon, usually selected from the National Preacher; at any rate always a very excellent one. When I am present, as I have been for two Sabbaths now, the old gentleman calls upon me to read. I do like to read before that little audience. I am really interested in these meetings. They must be beneficial. I cannot but think that God will sometime bless this little church, feeble and afflicted as they have been. Their spirit of fervent prayer, and

their appreciation of the priveliges they do enjoy might well shame many a stronger and more prosperous Church. I wish the Goffstown people could see their standing and privi-liges in the same light. It might benefit some.

My Sister, two Brothers, and myself united with this Church in Milo several years since, when we were all in this Town for a while. My Brothers and Sister soon transferred their connection to Bangor; and I have been away all the time myself. I do not think I have communed with this Church more than two or three times since I joined it; although I have never been in situation to remove my connection to any other Church. This I think has been injurious to me; attending meeting from Church to Church, and hardly feeling at home any where. The care and watchfulness of one's brethren are always needed by a young man. I suppose we all need the good influences exerted upon us by the Society and communion of the good.

I believe I need a gentle companion, kind and good, whose constant influence, restraining from ill, and prompting to all good, shall be a daily sunshine, gladdening and fertilising my heart. Such a companion I hope now to have as soon as I can get myself regularly established in some convenient position.

I have yet heard nothing decisive from the New Hampshire Central, and it is yet uncertain where I shall go, or where I shall be this coming season. I do hope the N. H. Central will be able to go forward and complete their Road. It must be pleasanter and better for me in almost every respect. I certainly do not want to have to go out of New England for employment.

There are openings in different directions, none to be sure exactly suiting me; but I do not want to decide definitely until they come to some conclusion about the N. H. Central

I may leave here immediately upon the receipt of either any time; and I may remain here for some time longer. At any rate letters addressed to me either here or at Bangor will be sure to reach me without very much delay; and I hope you will write again very soon. I think you must have had a very pleasant journey, which you wrote of. You said Mrs Parker and Mrs Chase had been up to Dunbarton. How did you like Mrs Chase? Mrs Francis Chase, was it, a large lady? It seems you are going to teaching School again. I want to hear whether you decide to teach in Goffstown. But I must close this long letter.

Most truly Yours

J. S. Metcalf

Milo, Maine, April 16. 1850

Dear Antoinette

Your letter was received yesterday with much pleasure. It seems you have now been teaching in Goffstown for four weeks. It is quite a large school too it appears; much larger than I supposed they could raise in that District. I am afraid it will fatigue you too much. Hardly any thing is more wearing than school teaching to one to one who really feels its great responsibilities. You must remember that even as a school teacher you owe paramount duties to yourself, to preserve your own health and strength unimpaired. We may sometimes be too apt to forget that, where we see clearly our duties to others.

I should think you might have quite a pleasant school in that neighborhood, although I am not much acquainted except with the Parkers. I always found though that there were unpleasant as well as pleasant things in every school. There will be some cases where our best efforts to benefit seem to fail, and we are pained to see our labor in vain. The pleasure however of seeing good seed springing up and bearing fruit in one mind will however repay one for many disappointments.

My time has been passing very quietly here, enlivened a little lately, perhaps saddened, by the prospect of leaving soon. I want to stay as much as possible with my

Brother. I did think some of going to New Hampshire last week. But the prospects upon the N. H. Central R. R. have not been very encouraging; and I have lately received quite a favorable offer from another quarter. This is a situation upon the St Andrews and Quebec Rail Road in New Brunswick, with the charge of twenty miles of Rail Road and a salary amounting to nearly twice as much as my pay upon the N. H. Central. I have hardly known what it was best to do about it. I dislike to go down there on some accounts I should much prefer to stay in New Hampshire if that Corporation could succeed in overcoming their difficulties and go on and complete their Road immediately: But their success in this is rather uncertain; although they write somewhat encouragingly to me. If they should fail, after my waiting a month or two longer, I might find it difficult to get business to suit me. I have also the promise of a situation on the Atlantic & St Lawrence by and by; but still it is uncertain and if obtained would be less profitable.
I may yet decide not to go down to New Brunswick. The place was first offered to a friend of mine now in New York. He could not leave, and wrote at once to get me to go, and the chance certainly seems a very favorable one in many respects.
Negociations are now going on about it.
How should you like to go down to New Brunswick, and live awhile among those Canadian French and "Blue Noses", as they call them here? I should not like to go alone.
They want me however to commence operations on the Road about the first of May.

Now Antoinette you must advise me whether to go to New Brunswick or not. I have advised you, you know about school teaching. One must naturally expect to feel there a lack of some of our New England social and religious priveliges. But opportunities of usefulness might be none the less; and it is a situation in some respects very desirable

I may conclude to go down to St Andrews next week to see the chance, and make arrangements about it, and then come back to Bangor again.

I am glad to hear of Mr Willey's doing well. I have felt a good deal for him; he has had many trials and discouragements. He told me once he thought there was not much sympathy of feeling between him and his people. I really do not think he has a very encouraging field of labor. I hope that the people of Milo are to have some preaching this summer. My Brother has written to the Home Missionary Society, and it is thought they will send a Missionary here for a while at least.

My Brother remains about the same. If any thing he grows slightly weaker. I do not know how he will bear my going away. I some times wish to stay and spend the summer with him.

I should like to see your Rose bush again. It has certainly recovered very rapidly. The weather here has been very cold, and the Spring extremely backward. Many of the favorite haunts of the wild flowers that I remember years ago, are now buried in snow.

I hope I shall have the pleasure of hearing from you again soon.

Yours Truly

Isaac Stevens Metcalf

Isaac

Milo Maine

April 16, 1850

~~Goffstown~~

Paid 5

Miss Antoinette B. Putnam,

Goffstown,

N.H.

Milo. Maine, May 13. 1850

Dear Antoinette

Your letter was received with much pleasure a week since. I thought then that I should go to New Hampshire this week, but it seems probable now that I shall not.
I have not been down to New Brunswick, and now hardly think that I shall; although the matter is not yet fully decided. I can hardly make up my mind to leave my brother now for any account. He is worse, and growing worse; seems to be growing weaker and weaker every day. He is now almost entirely helpless, cannot raise himself at all, hardly move a hand or a foot without assistance.
His mind is still active and cheerfull; but he can hardly bear the idea of my leaving him at all, and indeed I can hardly think of it myself. Some one must be with him constantly. Mother is not strong enough to lift him alone. Brother Eliab cannot leave his business in Bangor at present, and it is unpleasant to leave him to be taken care of by strangers. The affliction seems hard enough for the poor fellow to bear with all possible alleviations.
I think he feels my lack of the society of his own family more than most persons would.

This week and last week I suppose you are enjoying at home, "quiet Dunbarton". You must enjoy it after the fatigue and the various vexations of School-teaching. I have wanted very much to call in upon you now while you are at home. You may be assured that not a day, hardly an hour, passes, that I do not think of it. Sometimes I think I will go at any rate; but it hardly seems to do, and I am obliged to deny myself the privilege.

It is a delightful season of the year. sunny skies, springing grass and flowers, singing birds; any one seems almost inexcusable who cannot have at least a heart full of melody. Perhaps my heart contains as much of it as any one's, if it does fail of finding an expression upon the tongue.

Next week you will be teaching again. I should think the Spring time the Season when it would be most unpleasant to teach, Will you not find it irksome to be confined to a Schoolroom these bright Spring days, and in hot and languid June? Will you not some days sympathize with the little ones when they play truant? "To continue ten or eleven weeks" Well I hope it will be the last of your School teaching.

I thank you for remembering, and thinking of our little meetings at Milo. Fortunately, I am no longer called upon to supply the place of a Minister. A young man, a Student in the Bangor Theological Seminary is now here, spending his Vacation in Milo, as a Missionary. I hope he may be the means of doing, much good.

He is but just beginning to preach, but I think may make a very usefull man: He seems to have the "root of the matter" in him. He has succeeded in getting out quite a congregation of attentive listeners. Mere talent is not the only or the principle thing required for the Minister. This young man is a son of Rev Mr Temple, the Missionary, at Smyrna, I believe. We hope he is really doing good here. but we must feel, that it is of comparatively little account who plants, or who waters; it is God alone who must give the increase. The soil here is perhaps unpropitious. It has been run over first by Methodism, and then by the wild fires of the "Christian Connection" and Millerism in various forms. The subjects of these sects are now perhaps calling themselves Universalists or even Infidels. God can make even the dry bones live.

Mother and Sisters are quite anxious to see and become acquainted with you. No one has more to be thankful for in a good Mother than have I. Losing my father at so early an age, I owe every thing to my Mother's influence. 'Her children rise up and call her blessed'. And my own Sister Lucy, now Mrs Furber of Bangor, I can tell you nothing about her — but she is "Our Lucy"!

There I believe I must stop writing, for this time
I hope to hear from you again soon. I shall want to hear about your school &c. — please direct to Milo until I will inform you where I go. Love and regard to your parents &c. I hope your Mother's health is improving. Yours Sincerely

J. S. S.

Lane Milo Maine
May 14 1830
Dunbarton

Milo May 14

Paid 5

Miss Antoinette B. Putnam
Dunbarton N. H.

Isaac Milo Maine
June 30
July 2. 1850

Dunbarton Milo, Me. June 30. 1850

Dear Antoinette

Your letter was welcomed more than two weeks since. I intended to write before this time, but various matters in addition to my constant care of my brother have occupied my attention, and delayed it somewhat.

Sister Lucy I wrote to you was sick of a fever, and Mother went to Bangor to take care of her. As soon as Lucy was able to ride, she came up here with her husband and stayed a week, returning yesterday. We enjoyed their visit very much, although Lucy was well enough to sit up only a part of the time. I think a sister never was more beloved than is ours. Joseph says that the best people in the world are not in Milo today. I believe he thinks they were yesterday.

Joseph remains just about the same. He failed very fast for a while, but for some four weeks past has seemed stationary; almost entirely helpless, but we have hoped getting no worse; and we have been encouraged lately to hope that he might gradually recover.

I have been very much confined here with my brother. I should think it must be two months since I have hardly been away from the house. I hardly leave him at all by day. and sleep near him at night getting up to help him more, never less than twice, often

half a dozen times or more in the course of the night.
So my life is quite different from what it was last year, being so quiet in one place. It does not agree quite so well with me to be within doors all of the time, but my health is very good, and being up nights does not trouble me at all. And certainly I could not complain comparing my situation with my brother's. He never complains.

I have thought of you some of the very warm days we have had lately, and wondered what kind of a School Room you have. Most School Rooms are not very comfortable places in hot weather. One feels the heat much more than in almost any dwelling house. I should think your Danbarton home might be a comfortable place. You must be careful and not get fatigued and sick teaching this warm weather.
I should think from what you write that you must have a very pleasant School: that "Sewing Circle" must be extremely interesting. School teaching will be very pleasant, if you can feel that you are constantly doing good, and that to the Souls as well as to the intellects of your scholars.

Your father and Mother had rather an unpleasant time for their journey. For several weeks it rained most all of the time here, but for a few weeks past the weather is warm and pleasant enough.

I know you would be very much pleased with Botany. It is to be learned by practice rather than by study at school. It is excellent employment for Joseph. I usually go out

a little while in the morning while he sleeps and gather plants. We have several of the best books, and descriptions of plants with which we compare, then describe any new ones, and preserve specimens. The Botany of this region is quite various, and has never been much examined. Joseph says we shall be obliged to publish a Botany or "Flora" of "Cedar Grove" Cedar Grove is a name given to this place from a beautiful grove of Cedar trees near the house.

Joseph can do little but look, but he is much interested in our researches, and very thorough in his acquaintance with the vegetable world, or at least that part of it that he has ever seen. I am very fond of Natural History in any of its branches. Viewing animated or vegetable Nature as the work of God, the almost infinite manifestation of his benevolence and greatness, we may apply to them Dr Young's celebrated saying about Astronomy, "The undevout Astronomer is mad." We may say the same of the Student of Natural History

You will be glad to hear that the good people of Milo are to have constant evangelical preaching for the future. Partly by the aid of the Maine Missionary Society, a graduate of Bangor Theol. Sem. is to preach here three fourths of the time, while a pretty good Free Will Baptist preacher is to occupy the ~~other fourth~~ of the time.

Mr Temple who is here this week, and who boards with us, is very much interested in the state of things here. He thinks there have been eight or ten hopeful conversions within three months, among them two of sister Almeda's children. Of course we rejoice

The interest still continues, I believe, though the work is very still, and without excitement. It is principally among the young. I am unable to attend meetings at all, but seeing Mr Temple every day, I hear of the progress.

Do you hear any thing of the state of Religion in Goffstown since you left there?

Your brother, I suppose, is not at home this summer. This is probably a busy season with him. I hope he is prospering.

This is a very hurried and careless letter, but I believe it must draw to a close. Please give my love and respect to your father and Mother. I wish I could call into your school room this afternoon, and then walk home with you. I believe I think of you all the oftener for being so closely confined here. I hope you will write very soon, and above all do not wish to make your sheet shorter!

Sincerely Yours,
J. S.

Isaac Newbury N. H.
July 28. 1830
Dunbarton

Newbury N. H. July 28. 1850.

Dear Antoinette

I have just returned from Newport, where I have been to Church. It is nearly ten miles from here, but it appeared the best thing I could do, though I could have found a Baptist meeting within five miles in another direction, and Universalist much nearer. I was a little disappointed in the preaching though. I expected to hear Old Mr Woods, a regular old school preacher, sound and old fashioned-ly learned. I really [illegible] to hear him preach. But a young man, who is about to be settled as Colleague to Mr Woods, preached, and as I thought not so well.

I am very anxious to hear from your brother, and I hope soon to hear from you that he is much better, and moreover that neither yourself or your Mother have made yourselves sick in taking care of him. I should perhaps in my anxiety to hear from your brother & yourself have written before if I could have found time. You can hardly imagine how busily I am employed or how great a weight of care and responsibility I have upon me.

It is [illegible] a [illegible]. I must be in the field with the [illegible] till [illegible] dark; then I have perhaps some hours of calculations &c. to go through with, perhaps write

[illegible] the others are asleep. And my ~~brains are~~ mind is so filled with curves and cuttings, and Tunnel that I could hardly get my thoughts to myself even today on the Sabbath. They have put me in a very difficult position, too difficult for so young an Engineer. I told Mr. [illegible] that they ought at least to get up here some old celebrated Engineer to consult upon this subject, but he said that they had all confidence in me! I am afraid it speaks ill for their wisdom!

For my own part, I shall get used to it, and it will come easier by and bye. It is a great deal of work to "break in" a new party; to teach each one his business, how to do it, and how to do it well & rapidly.

I think I shall get an excellent party in the end; and then I can teach them to do many things that I am now obliged to do myself.

I am ~~obliged~~ [illegible] that I was obliged to make such a visit at Dunbarton as I did. It was altogether too bad. I hope your Mother will forgive me; and I am certainly thankful to her for her suggestions. It was as my own Mother would have spoken. What did your Father say upon my Sunday visit? You must intercede for me with him.

I have not heard from my Brother, or from home, since I came from there; so that I am in almost a very fever of impatience to hear from them. I [illegible], and must write again this evening. I [illegible] how exactly where the

[illegible] letters to, and they may have written to Gyp. Tom or Henniker, and so I have not got the letters yet.

I do hope you will let me hear from you soon. I want to hear from your brother's health.

I do not know but I must stop, or have no time to read or think today.

Do not make my hasty letter a guide in writing if you have time to write more. If you would excuse me and this if you knew how little time I have. I do not like to write letters on the Sabbath, but I must write to Joseph, and also to Laura today.

My love to Fanny and your Parents, with kiss to yourself.

Truly yours
J. J. Metcalf

Newbury Vt Paid 5

Jan 29

Miss Antoinette B. Putnam

Dunbarton

N. H.

Isaac Sunapee } N. H.
Newport }

Aug. 11 1850

Dunbarton

Sunapee, N. H. Aug. 11. 1850

Dear Antoinette

Your kind letter was received with much pleasure more than a week since. I intended to write before this time, but have been unable to. My time, from quite early in the morning until about dark, is spent in the field. The evenings are quite short, but must be spent, perhaps lengthened out somewhat, with two or three to help me in "Office Work", calculations, drafting &c. So that my time is entirely occupied. Moreover, though abundant showers to wet us occasionally, there have been no rainy days, no day when we did not work out of doors, since we have been here. So that I have really no time to write letters except on the Sabbath, therefore I do not write letters, except after I get home from Church, one every week to brother Joseph, and perhaps one or two in the evening to yourself and my Mother or Sisters. I have a good distance to go to Church besides; out to Newport. The distance is less however today than before, for we moved our boarding place yesterday, from the End of the Lake in Newbury up to "Angell's" in Sunapee. "Sunapee" is a new name for the town. It was changed from Wendell to Sunapee this summer. I still however have my letters my letters directed to Newbury, as we shall be here probably but a little while, and can get any thing very readily from Newbury.

We shall soon be out at Newport for a few weeks, and then back again to Newbury & Bradford.

You say I must be careful of my health. I intend to be so. I have learned I think to realize the importance of health more than I formerly did. Being with my brother I think has taught me some thing in that respect. My health has always been so good that I have thought little of it, and have been perhaps unnecessarily careless of my self sometimes. I intend to "take it easy" now. I have certainly a great load of care and responsibility, but I do believe with you that "Life's cares are comforts", or at least that they are necessary to our happiness.

I was very sorry to hear that Henry was no better when you wrote. I hope he has at least begun to recover before this time, and that I shall soon hear of his rapid convalescence. It must be quite a trial to you to be teaching away from home while he is so sick as he was when you wrote. Has Henry had any other Medical advice since he came home than your Dunbarton physician? When a friend is very sick I cannot be contented without consulting the best advice that can be obtained. You know the proverb that in the multitude of counsellors there is wisdom.

Brother Joseph they think at home is still recovering, but very slowly indeed. I have had two or three letters from there since I last wrote to you. I did not hear sooner because their letters were at first directed to Henniker. I have also a man here in my party from there, an acquaintance of our folks who left there last week, after seeing Joseph.

I am very glad to hope that I am forgiven for my breaking the Sabbath the day that I was at Dunbarton. I am certainly very much obliged to your

Mother for her kind advice; and shall be very grateful if she will always favor me in the same way. It will give me the benefit of having Two Mothers.

You wrote of the unpleasant, showery weather, and enquired whether we always found shelter. I will tell you how we do when it rains when we are away in the woods or fields, at a distance from houses. — We take off our coats to wrap over and protect the Instruments, (that is, if it rains so hard that handkerchiefs &c. do not shield them enough, and then stand ourselves and receive the full benefit of the shower! Some would think this very bad, and perhaps expect colds &c. as a result; but you know I am a "Cold Water Man", and think a good wetting in a shower, or by wading a stream or pond, as we do occasionally, is a benefit.

That which you reserved to the last in your letter is indeed rejoicing. How happy such a state of mind in your dear brother must make your family circle. The rejoicing in such a family circle in such circumstance is like the rejoicing in heaven. May Henry live long to prove life a gain to himself, and a gain to friends, and to the world.
But it is getting quite late and I must stop — with my love to all the family, Yourself & Henry in particular.

Yours truly
A. S. Metcalf

[illegible] 12 [illegible]

Paid

PAID 5

Miss Antoinette B. Putnam
Dunbarton
N. H.

Isaac Newport N.H.
Sept. 1 1850
Dunbarton

Newport N. H. Sept. 1. 1850

Dear Antoinette

Two of your kind letters lie before me. The first, by some mistake in the Post Office, although the direction was perfectly plain, came here from Newburyport Mass. whither it was missent, and long out of its way. The other which informs me of your heavy affliction was received yesterday. I had feared a fatal termination of Henry's disease after hearing that he remained so long without improvement. The Hand of God has indeed come very near. It must come with an almost stunning weight upon you all.

How happy you are in having such a hope even in his death. You can <u>feel</u> as well as <u>know</u> that—

"He doeth all things well"

Truly the bitterest sting of Death, and the greatest victory of the Grave, are not. You can feel that in this harsh sundering of the ties of Earth, severe and painful as it must be,—as our very Nature makes it— you can feel that there is "one more added to the attractions of Heaven" "The far country, toward which we journey, seems nearer to us, and the way less dark, for that thou hast gone before, passing so quietly to thy rest."

In your sorrow, you can ~~not~~ sorrow not for him. The affliction and the loss are great <u>gain</u> for him. and doubtless designed for good to others.

We came in to Newport to board the first of this week, shall probably remain here a few days longer, and then go back to Newbury, or quarter ourselves a while as before, among the farmers between here & there.

We believe that all the afflictions and trials of life.
dark and mysterious as they may seem, are designed for our best and highest good. We should see in them all the hand of Him whose kindness never forgets our true interests in any of its dispensations.
We in our shortsightedness can not understand why one in whom were garnered so many hopes, and so much of promise, should be called so suddenly away from opening fields of usefulness on Earth, but we can realize that God who knoweth all things knew it best, and must meekly bow before his chastening rod.
Henry's death may be sanctified as the means of much good among the young people of Dunbarton.
May all profit by the warning dispensation. In sympathising, as I hope I do, with you, in your affliction, may my heart be softened, and drawn nearer to God.

I have just now come from Church and the Communion. I have not had the privelige of attending Communion before for six months. This was a very interesting occasion. Two young ladies were admitted to the Church, and Old Mr Woods is really very impressive. I do like him very much as a preacher, and it was quite a relief to me to have the Young Man who has been preaching here leave.
Mr Woods is certainly a superior man, one whose Equals are rare in any place. Added to undoubted talent and learning, he has an unusually good voice, and a very impressive manner.

Last Sabbath, I was out here in the rain, Mr Woods was absent and his pulpit was filled by a young Episcopal Clergyman, a native of Newport, but for many years absent. He went through all the Episcopal Service &c. He had a very fine voice, agreeable manner, and considerable ability. People here appeared to be much pleased with him, but I learn since that he is a Southern Slaveholder! If I had known this fact at the time, it would have detracted something from my enjoyment perhaps, or at any rate wounded some of my antislavery feelings.

Evening. I have just returned from the Monthly Concert. Mr Woods gave a very interesting account of the meetings last week at Great Falls. He mentioned particularly Pres. Lord's Sermon, the "Concio ad Clerum". Pres. Lord, you know, advances some peculiar views upon the Second Coming of Christ which it appears were touched upon in this sermon. Dr Dwight of Portland, who preached in the course of the meeting upon a somewhat similar topic, probably presented a little different view of the subject. Mr Woods spoke of Mr Stoddard, Missionary among the Nestorians, who was present, as very interesting. I was glad to hear that Mr Willey of Goffstown was appointed Secretary of the N. H. Bible Society. It has seemed to me that Mr Willey had hardly a fair field for his peculiar qualities where he now is at Goffstown.

You asked me in one of your letters if I did not feel almost as much wearied on the Sabbath, as on other days.

I have sometimes thought that I felt fatigue more on that than on any other day. The endeavor to unbend the mind from the labors of the week seems to bring on a very unusual languor, and a sort of indisposition to engage in, or give my attention to any thing else; and if I stir myself up to active thought, there is a certain tendency to revert to the old Channels.

You ask about my compensation from the N. H. Central R.R. When Mr Steele wrote to me of the position with the care & responsibility the Directors wished to impose upon me, I wrote that I ought to have at the rate of $1200. per year. and perhaps few perform such & so much service cheaper than that. He did not get My letter, but wrote again urging me to come. and I did not learn the vote of the Directors limiting the Salary to be paid to $3.00 per diem, till I had started. I told Mr Steele that if I had known it I should not have come; but I cared much less for the compensation except in name than for the place, the responsibility, doing the work in short, and thus improving my capacities and reputation. They however gave me considerable advantages in other respects; furnishing me a good horse; paying expenses &c.

The amount of Salary allowed me has always been one of the least of my cares.

I had letters from home yesterday. Joseph remains about the same. They still hope he is recovering, but almost imperceptibly slowly. I usually write to him every Sabbath Evening, but have not yet commenced. Having now no other leisure I write to Joseph & Mother, and to yourself on the Sabbath. I have always been in the habit of writing to Mother on the Sabbath.

But I must stop — hoping to hear from you again very soon — Yours tru[ly]

J. S.

Newbury, N.H. Sept. 21. 1850
At "Capt. Joe Morse's", Under Bald Sunapee Mountain

Dear Antoinette

Having at last finished up my week's work, I joyfully seat myself to commence a letter to you.... I always try very hard to get through all business a little earlier than usual on Saturday Evenings. It is a habit I learned at Northfield and thereabout in Massachusetts, where many of the people commence their Sabbath at Sunset on Saturday Evening.

This evening I have finished up and put away my Field Books and Profiles before eight o'clock. To be sure I was then very much tempted to go "Coon hunting". The Mountain near us, (it seems almost over the house,) abounds with Raccoons, and this beautiful moonlight evening their shrill hoot or whistle is heard to much advantage from the open window near which I am seated. I have never tried "Coon hunting", and had really considerable curiosity in that line. But there were some adverse circumstances in way of the sport; to say nothing of the rough precipitous boulder covered hill sides upon which it must be prosecuted; and I soon decided upon the more quiet pleasure; though I have just been listening to one or two 'Coon' & 'Possum' Stories pretty well told under my window by one of my men who spent several years at the South and West.

We are now boarding at an Old Farmer's, a hard headed old fellow, who has dug out from among the rocks a valuable farm, in a little recess here among the Mountains, with their steep rocky sides stretching up apparently indefinitely on almost ~~every side~~ two sides
Our R.R. Line is obliged to wind into this recess some miles from villages or high roads and it saves us a good deal of travelling to board in here for a week or two. They are Old fashioned people, plain and really coarse, but we get along very well here for a while. We are obliged to accustom our selves to all sorts of circumstances. The 'Old Woman' here entertains us with accounts of old Log-house times when she had bears & wild cats for Neighbors, and tells what her "Old Man, he" did.
Well, some credit is to be given to such people; they have made a fine place here from a wilderness of rocks and forests. and have prospered perhaps deservedly.

We have been in here now almost a week. I shall find the way out tomorrow in some direction.
Last Sabbath, going out to Newport, I was very much pleased with the Preacher I heard. It was a young man, Mr Wellman of Cornish; just beginning to preach but certainly giving abundant promise of Eloquence and even greatness. I was much pleased with the perfectly simple dignity of his manner and style. entirely free from affectation so common in young men, and yet a natural conscciousness of strength. I was much struck too by an extraordinary resemblance to a College friend of my own; the same heavy frame, broad sallow face, massive head, and lofty brow.

with the very same deeply set dull grey Eyes, dull as lead till they gradually kindle until you seem to see some thing away behind them brilliant indeed.

I rejoice with you in the good news you write of your younger brother. How joyful it must be to you and your parents. May he truly have chosen that good part never to be taken away.

It seems that you are still demanded as a School teacher; but I am glad that you have fully decided not to teach any more. You have certainly done your part of teaching, and done it well.

Your last School was so pleasant, it was a very good one to leave off with. So the last impressions will be favorable, which is worth something any where.

Can you excuse this hurried, and I fear careless written letter. I believe I am getting sleepy and must stop — if I do not find a chance to write more tomorrow sometime.

Do not be anxious about my health; it seems perfect. I believe I was never more strong & healthy.

My brother's health remains about the same. We hope he is gradually ~~recovering~~ recovering.

My respects to your family. and I hope to hear from you again very soon, even if I have not time to write any thing myself worth reading

Sincerely Yours

I. S. M.

Isaac Newbury N.H.
Sept. 23d 1850
Dunbarton

Paid 5

Newbury N.H.
Sep 23

Miss Antoinette B. Putnam
Dunbarton
N.H.

Isaac Bradford N. H.
Oct. 14 1850

Dunbarton Bradford N. H. Oct. 13. 1850

Dear Antoinette

Your letter of Oct. 1st. I did not receive until two or three days since. We have been living in out of the way places along the proposed Rail Road Line, but away from the Stage Road and did not get our letters &c. until we got out to Bradford I do not know though but your letter gratified me almost enough when I did get it to compensate for the delay.
It would have pleased you to see how eager the whole party were for letters and news. I take a Boston Daily Newspaper, the Evening Traveller. We usually get it the next noon; but when we got out here and got three of a week or more together, it was worth while to see the rush and anxiety for news.
Today I am almost homesick. This place is almost heathenish. Here is quite a village for a country place, or rather two villages half a mile apart. There are two taverns, half a dozen stores, mills &c.; and likely to be two Rail Roads. One would expect two or three Churches at least. There is one miserable looking meeting house, half way between the villages, but no minister; some sort of Baptist or 'Christian' preaching one half or one third of the time, and even then nobody hardly attends. Today a strange Millerite, or Second Advent preacher, he called himself, from somewhere, held forth, and part of the day at least drew large crowds of eager auditors, hoping to hear some new thing. The preacher was a young fellow of considerable shrewdness and considerable

command of language. It was really painful to hear the way in which he used scripture to support his theories. Sometimes one could hardly avoid being amused, in spite of the impiety I had almost said. Among other things I remember he entered into an argument upon Predestination or God's decrees. "Him, being delivered by the determinate counsel, and foreknowledge of God &c."
"I will allow the foreknowledge of God," said he, but the determinate counsel, he thought (or labored long to prove) was the Council or Sanhedrim of the Jews, firmly determined to put Christ to death! You will not thank me for that idea perhaps. But is it not sad to reflect upon the effect produced by such preaching. If it has any effect it must make people think that any thing can be proved from the scriptures, few being able to detect the fallacies of such arguments as many of them, and finally it must lessen or destroy all faith. I believe it has had that effect in many cases. It seems to have burned over the hearts of the people in some places like a wild fire, destroying the very roots of all religious feeling.
I was almost inclined to think today that some of my men who wish always to spend the Sabbath away in the woods, or climbing some mountain, might really spend it better than in hearing such preaching. I can really hardly blame those whom I know to be true lovers of Nature for such a choice: though I have never thought it right to set such an example myself.
The lines you quote about the lover of Nature I have seen, I think, though I do not remember where. I have ad

nired, and I believe felt them. I believe I have a taste for Natural History in all its branches, though I have had but comparatively little time to devote to it. The birds were always among my dearest friends, and I am fond of almost every animal. It is one of the hardest things for me in my business to be so frequently obliged to pass by a plant which I wish to examine, or a bird I wish to watch. Even when busiest though, I frequently observe a plant which is new to me, and this Summer have got in the habit of plucking such an one or a sprig of it, placing it hastily between the leaves of my Field Book, and sending it by my next letter to my brother. In this way all my letters to him are double letters, and he is so expert a Botanist that a sprig even will generally show him the place of a plant he has never before seen. In his next letter he writes his observations upon the plants I sent him; and this adds additional interest to our correspondence.

I should think that the reciprocal visiting which you mention with your neighbors of Hopkinton must have been very & interesting, I hope it was profitable.

Simeon B. S. Burnham of Manchester is one of my Party, and the same I presume to whom you refer. He commenced with me here in July, I made him "Transit Man"; he is active, intelligent, and well educated, and if he continues in the business, I think can do well as an Engineer.

My Brother I hear from about every week; but I am getting extremely anxious to see him. If he is recovering it is very slowly; and I sometimes fear that he is not really much better. He is still almost entirely helpless

You have heard the whistling of "Coons" there at the West. I never heard them except about here.

I did not get any chance to go hunting. Perhaps it was hardly best, as I can get exercise enough in my business and should look to more quiet occupations for my relaxation, or recreation.

You enquire when I shall be likely to emerge from these recesses. As long as my Party is in the Field, it is about impossible for me to get away even for half of a day. Any other one can be spared, but if I am absent all must stop. So you see that I am really of some consequence in one place at least!

However I think we begin to see through and it is very possible that our out of door work here may soon be finished up for the present.

I am as yet though almost entirely ignorant of the plans of those who decide upon our advances. I do not know whether they will be able to proceed or not.

But I must stop — it is half past ten o'clock before I thought of it, and I am obliged to be an early riser in these times.

My love to all, especially Antoinette

Sincerely J. S. Metcalf

Isaac Manchester N. H.

Nov. 5 1850 Manchester N. H. Nov. 3. 1850

Dunbarton

Dear Antoinette

It seems a long while since I heard from you. I think the last letter I received from you must have been written a month since. I have been for a fortnight past both wishing and expecting an opportunity to get to Dunbarton and yesterday felt really a good deal disappointed.

Two weeks ago Friday I came down to Manchester and Goffstown, and thought to spend the Sabbath at Dunbarton, but found myself obliged to return to Bradford on Saturday. The next week I was at Concord two or three days attending a "Hearing" before the Rail Road Commissioners, in which the N. H. Central was vitally interested.

Concord seemed so near Dunbarton that I wanted to get there, but could not get away either day or evening. When we got through at Concord, I had to return to Bradford to finish up my business there. Saturday afternoon I came down to Manchester again, but it rained so much that I was obliged to stay and spend the Sabbath. It was the first Sabbath I ever spent in Manchester!

The past week I have been preparing "Estimates" of the amount of work and cost of building our route from Henniker to Newport, which Estimates are to be ready before the next meeting of the R. R. Commissioners, Nov. 13.

I did think to get away yesterday afternoon, but the only consolation left for my disappointment is the opportunity of writing today.

Perhaps a letter from you may be somewhere on the way for me now. When I left Bradford I expected to go to "Parker's" to do this Office work, and directed my letters remailed thither.

I expect now to be at liberty before many weeks. The controversy between the N. H. Central and the Concord & Claremont Rail Roads is apparently about to be finally decided against the former; in which case, we shall have nothing to do but to stop at once, and do nothing above Henniker.

There has been considerable excitement about Rail Road matters lately. The Question of the Lease of the Manchester & Lawrence R.R. by the Concord R.R. has excited much interest; and its consummation is likely to weigh heavily against the N. H. Central.

But my thoughts are running rather too much upon Rail Road matters for the Sabbath day. My mind is so full of 'Rail Road' all the week, that, without constant watchfulness, it will revert to the same topic even at times when it ought to be otherwise employed. Did you ever have your thoughts so long bent and fixed upon a single subject that it seemed to become a sort of natural channel for them? like a crooked spring the Elasticity is all one way. I sometimes think of this: Perhaps it is in some measure necessary in almost any employment, any employment of the mind at least; but at any rate it ought not to be permitted to interfere with our proper attention to higher concerns and eternal interests.

Today is my second Sabbath in Manchester. I was in Manchester a good deal last year but never happened to stay here over the Sabbath. I hear Mr Wallace preach, and like him very much. I was much pleased with his Sermons last Sabbath. I think he must be a large minded man, and one who might safely be called Eloquent at times. I have thought though from some things in his manner and style that he might have lacked some of the things which go to form a thorough education.

This forenoon his subject was "The Church"; the text was "If I forget thee O Jerusalem &c."; And at times he was really eloquent, as he dwelt upon the past sufferings & trials of the Church, its excellencies, benefits to the world, its standing, and its hopes. I have never heard any other minister of Manchester.

I have not told you how I was disappointed about seeing my sister, Sister Anne, who has been in Wisconsin for two years. She was coming home, and wrote to me that if I would be in Boston Saturday night I would meet her. It was two weeks ago yesterday. Being at Manchester I did not get the letter until I got back to Bradford. If I had received it in season I should have tried hard to go down. I wanted to see her very much, and perhaps if I had known it in season might have gone down to Boston by the evening train, spent the Sabbath there, and returned by the early train Monday morning.

However if we get through here soon, which now appears probable, I can go "Down East", and see her there, and my brother too, whom I am getting quite impatient to see again, especially as he remains so much the same. I am afraid that he is not really getting any better. They write to me that he seems stronger and better in some respects, but does not appear to regain the use of his limbs. His hands and arms are exactly as weak and helpless as they were last Spring. One of them he can not use at all, and even the other he can with difficulty raise up to his head. How I do want to see him!

There I fear I shall be late to Church. You must write to me here, and I hope too you will see me soon at Danvers. Sincerely yours J. S. Metcalf

MANCHESTER N.H. NOV 5

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Miss Antoinette B Putnam

Dunbarton

N. H.

Paid

Manchester. N. H. Nov. 16. 1850

Dear Antoinette

I am in great haste, but have at last received some money of N. H. C. R. R. I am extremely happy to Enclose to you Fifty dollars of it. and will send more whenever you need it at New Haven or Elsewhere. I hope to hear from you soon, what you learn about the New Haven project &c. I go to Boston this morning where I have some business, probably to Bangor on Monday, whither please direct.

In great haste Sincerely

J. S. M.

Isaac Manchester Ho[illegible]
Boston Mass

Nov. 16, 1850

Dunbarton

Isaac Bangor Maine

Nov. 28 1850

Dunbarton Bangor. Me. Nov. 28, 1850

Dear Antoinette

I have just received your kind letter. I am here in Bangor attending a Rail Road Meeting, and with little time to write; but think I must, if it be but little.

The meeting here is for the Organisation of the Penobscot and Kennebec R. R. Co. Choice of Directors &c. I thought it best to be present, and have applied for a situation as Engineer; but there is very little probability of my obtaining it. There are too many applicants, men more known, with more influence to favor them, and various advantages more than I can claim. Though to be sure, (you know how much one's self love influences the judgment) I could not help thinking that some of the Office Seekers whose real character and ability I knew something of, might in fact be no more capable of rendering valuable service than myself.

There is little chance of my getting employment here, and I may be out of business for a long time. On some accounts I can hardly regret it, though I suppose I ought to be at work. I should like to spend the winter with my brother, if consistent. I hardly know whether to say he is better or worse. In many respects he seems better than when I left.

from last Summer; he is less easily fatigued, sits up nearly all the time, and bears excitement or motion better. But at the same time, his limbs are still weaker, more entirely helpless.
His Spirits are still good; his mind sustains himself, and all around him, as ever.
My sister, who, I believe I told you had been very sick lately, is still very feeble. She did not seem to recover her health & strength as expected. We feared she would fall away in consumption; Oh how we feared! I cannot tell how dear "Our Lucy" is to us all. She seems to me almost an Angel here on Earth. This week we rejoice exceedingly in that she appears to be recovering finely.

You had not heard from New Haven when you wrote. I meant to have written to you from Boston what I learned there; that Miss Bacon was delivering a course of lectures there &c. I rather think that her school was given up for a time at least, (if it has ever been revived) some time ago, a year or two. I did not think of it when at Dunbarton, but afterward remembered something about Miss Bacon's difficulty with a young Clergyman, Rev. Mr. H—, I forget the name.
Miss Catherine E. Beecher, perhaps you may have seen, has lately published a book, "Fact stranger than Fiction", I believe is the title, to vindicate the character of her friend Miss Bacon.
I have not read this book, and know nothing of the merits of the case except from the various newspaper reports; but am inclined to believe that no blame could justly be attached to Miss B., possibly she was

indiscreet, or suffered herself to be too easily imposed upon.
But the young man was wealthy & influential, too valuable a friend to Yale College to be lost, and so the Authorities supported him, or perhaps tried to compromise until it was too late not to support him, and thought it was better that a single female should suffer than that the College should. If so it is certainly to be hoped that they will suffer in the end, and that justice will eventually be done.
Whether Miss Bacon's school has ever been revived I can not learn. If it has not been I suppose you will select the next best place you can find.
But I must stop this hurried scrawl. I fear it is hardly legible, even if worth reading.
I am going to Milo tomorrow and hope to hear from you there soon

Yours truly

J. S.

Miss Antoinette B. Putnam
Dunbarton
N. H.

Isaac
[to him]

Dec. 15 1850 Bangor Maine, Sabbath, Dec. 15, 1850
Merrimack
Dear Antoinette

Your letter was joyfully received. I had been expecting it for some days. It went first to Milo, and finally found me here. I am here employed on the Bangor & Waterville, or Penobscot & Kennebec Rail Road. I have no permanent situation, and there are as yet no permanent arrangements made. But the ~~Company~~ Directors, newly Organised, in great haste to complete a Location this Month, in order to secure their Charter, applied to me to take hold and help finish the Location. So I did. They set me to make a Location into the City of Bangor, and I have been about it with a large party for a week past. It is perhaps about the most difficult thing to be done upon the whole line. However I have the advice of other Engineers, so I shall be in no danger of getting <u>all</u> the credit, if I succeed. I do not know what permanent arrangements will be made probably none till after this Month. Perhaps I have about as good chance for getting some permanent employment on the Line as most of the many who are now temporarily employed, or who are applicants. But I shall probably know nothing about it until Next Month.

I was very glad to hear that you are fairly at

School. I presume that the School is a very good one, and that you will enjoy yourself finely. Mr Charles Temple, who preached at Milo last summer, and of whom I think I wrote you, was a believe, an assistant teacher at Merrimack a while, and I have heard him speak highly of the School and of Mr Russell. It must be very pleasant for you having your brother with you. Both will enjoy it better. I shall want to hear whether you have got a convenient and agreeable Boarding Place, and also how you continue to like the School and the Studies you pursue. How many pleasures there are in School life. I do not know but I should like to go back and live over again some of my school days. though I make it my rule not to look back much.

You ask my advice about your Studies. I think my advice will be not to Study too much; above all be careful of health; enter freely into society, if there is that which is really good and refined; recreate and enjoy yourself as well as improve your mind. We are of compound natures and various capacities, and all our powers should be duly cultivated the mind by Study, the body by exercise, the heart and the manners by communion with God and our fellow beings. I suppose an attention to health is one of the first of duties; without health we can enjoy none of the blessings of God, and yet how apt we are to neglect it, in the pursuit of other things.

My Sister we hope is getting along well, though rather slowly, yet gains health & strength constantly. My brother I fear is getting worse instead of better, he seems to be slowly losing what little strength he has left.

I have been extremely busy this week past both day and evening; so I have very little leisure to see my friends, yet it seems quite pleasant to be near them only. I think I may enjoy it if I can get employment here for a while. Well I must stop writing or not go to Church this evening. I shall hope to hear from you again very soon, and all about your school &c.

Yours Sincerely

J. S. Metcalf

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Miss Antoinette B. Putnam
Merrimack
Reeds Ferry
N. H.

Isaac. Milo Maine

(1851?)

Jan 4. 1850

Milo, Maine, Jan. 4. 1850

Reeds Ferry, Merrimack

Dear Antoinette

I received your welcome letter when I reached Bangor, nearly a week ago. I sat down Monday evening, Dec. 30th, & began to write to you; when Brother Eliah came in with a letter from Milo that Brother Joseph was suddenly worse. We came up to Milo, as soon as possible on Tuesday but we found him dead. He died Tuesday morning. He was taken Saturday morning 28th, with a slight difficulty of breathing, and apparent effort to throw off something from the Lungs. But it was thought only the effect of a slight cold, and he was soon easier, and remained so Sunday & part of Monday. It appeared that the Paralysis suddenly attacked the Muscles about the Lungs, and rapidly progressed until it stopped his breath.

But, as he himself said, "he believed he had every thing prepared" He had constantly expected a fatal termination of his disease even when he seemed to others to be improving in health. When he was taken worse, he understood it, and said at once that it would be useless to do any thing for him. On Monday night when he was seized with the final distress for breath, he merely inquired of the Physician who was present "How long will it take me?" He expressed his readiness to go, and his thankfulness that he was not left, as

he was eased: he should be, until the disease should reach his brain, and the mind be weakened.
In the midst of his distress, he said to those around him, "Do not cry, I shall soon be well now". When asked of his state of feeling, his answer was "Perfect trust"; and said "This is indeed joyful". "Who is he that condemneth; it is Christ that died &c."
His death was indeed joyful, triumphant, the death of a Christian. Not the slightest complaint or murmur ever passed his lips, although he suffered acutely; in that respect his death was that of a Stoic. In his last hours as ever before he appeared thoughtful only for others, almost unconscious of himself. His mind was perfectly clear and unclouded to the very last; and his very death seemed but the last and most perfect triumph of a pure soul and a firm and lofty intellect over the wreck of matter, and the accidents of time. Oh how beautiful was his corpse! It seemed, in its marble coldness, the perfect embodiment of purity and intellect. We could not weep for him: we ought rather to rejoice: Yet who that knew his worth, (few could know half his worth), could but weep at the untimely grave of so many hopes, of so much of promise?
I cannot mourn for Joseph; but I cannot get over it that I was not with him in his last hours. I finished my work at Waterville on Saturday, a week ago to day, and came over to Bangor the same night, intending to remain there a few days before coming to Milo, in order to be present at a meeting of the Rail road Company.

The Funeral was on Thursday: a Prayer at the house by the new Minister here, and at the grave, the beautiful Funeral service of the Sons of Temperance of which Society Joseph had been a leading Member in Bangor.

Eliab and I returned to Bangor on Friday afternoon, but I came up here again this Morning. Sister Lucy is here at Milo, came up the week before Joseph's death. Her health appears to be slowly improving. Sister Anne who came from Racine this Fall is here too, but leaves next week; is going to Westfield N.Y. to take charge of the Female department of Westfield Academy.

It appears probable that the ~~Androscoggin~~ Penobscot & Kennebeck R.R. Co. for whom I have been at work three or four weeks will decide to go to work immediately, and that I shall be offered some kind of a situation there; whether such as I shall think best to accept is uncertain, but I shall know soon.

I believe there were many things in your letter that I intended to make the subject of part at least of mine; but the letter is at Bangor, I read it but hastily at first, and do not now remember much of it. I believe I remember that you have an unpleasant and cold room. I am afraid you have really suffered, if your room is a cold one, such extremely cold weather as it has been for a few weeks past. The great storm last week Monday was one of the worst I ever knew, I was not out that day. but the next day was the worst day I ever worked out of doors. I did not really suffer myself, but several of my men got their ears, noses or feet frostbitten, although I tried to be careful of them. But I believe I must stop, as I ought to write several letters to relatives & friends tonight. Sincerely J. S. Metcalf

Miss Antoinette B. Putnam
Reed's Ferry, Merrimack
N. H.

Answered Jan. 14.

Please be careful of
this dear letter—
Remember now, for
I shall want it when I
come home—

Isaac   Milo Maine
Feb. 27. 1851

Milo, Maine. Feb. 27. 1851.

Reeds Ferry N.H.

Dear Antoinette

Reaching here last evening I found a letter from you awaiting me, and hasten to reply to it. I have been for several weeks away from here, in fact I could almost say, away from everywhere, making a tour through the Lumbering Region in the North and East part of this State. Your previous kind and excellent letter I received before I started and ought to have replied to it at the time, but in thinking of other things I neglected or put it off at the time, and after I got into the woods there was no chance to write, though I believe I thought of it every day wherever I was. By the way I could tell you great accounts of my adventures and experiences of life in the Back woods. I went with my Brotherinlaw, Mr Furber, who is Agent for large proprietors of timber lands and is obliged to look over the Lumbering operations occasionally, exploring the lands and surveying the lumber where it is cut. I can hardly tell how long we were without sleeping in a bed or going into any house other than the Log "Camps" of the Lumbermen. The sight of these Camps would amuse you. the end are built up of logs. the roofs go clear to the ground, and are covered with bushes, bark or boards split out logs with an axe, and the whole perhaps

two thirds covered with snow. The Chimney is merely a large hole in the middle of the roof with perhaps logs logs built up around it like a children's Cob house. The fire inside may consist of some half a cord of wood, cut about eight feet long and burning in the middle of the camp. On each side of this are laid down hemlock boughs for a bed on which the men sleep in a row with their feet toward the fire. In some camps there are only six or eight men, in some, twenty or thirty, or even more.

We travelled from one camp to another, sometimes in the roads by which the lumbermen carry in their supplies of provisions and hay, sometimes on the ice of the rivers and numerous lakes, and sometimes through the woods a foot on snow shoes, and guided by a pocket Compass, or an occasional tree blazed by some previous explorer. I really enjoyed this life in the woods considerably with its great variety now communing with those rough and hardy lumbermen, and now with the great lakes, and mountains, and waterfalls; again watching the game and the winter birds in their native home, especially the little Crossbills which even in the coldest weather make the sunny mornings vocal as Spring around the Camps; and then again assisting in Counting or measuring the lumber, ~~mea~~ admiring perhaps "fit mast for some great admiral"; or perhaps for additional variety hunting or fishing a while. Grouse were abundant; we saw deer and lynxes, and Moose the largest game and the largest animal of this climate, are to be found.

but though the snow was three or four feet deep, it was not hard enough then to afford a chance to hunt the moose advantageously.
On the whole I enjoyed the tour very well, at least on weekdays, but it was rather hard spending the Sabbaths in the Lumbermen's Camps.
I am afraid all this account of my woods journey will not be very interesting to you.
I wish I could have been at your Exhibition at the Close of last term. I should like to hear some account of it, and also of the 'Visit' at Dunbarton, which it would have given me great pleasure to attend, and really quite troubled me that I could not. I do not know that I ever enjoyed any social gathering more than I did that at your house last year. I want to hear all about it.

If your vacation is only one week, I presume you are at Merrimac again now. If there is the slightest possibility that you are not I shall blame myself still more for not writing again last month, and using all my influence for it. And whenever you want more money it will be ready for you.

I shall be anxious to hear from you again immediately, and whether you like the school as well as last term. I must stop for I slept too late this morning and *must* write other letters before the Mail leaves.

I am afraid my remissness in writing troubled you, perhaps your Father & Mother, and I hardly dare ask you both to forgive me yourself and apologize for me to others. I will write again soon. Sincerely Yours, J. S. H

PAID. 5

Miss Antoinette B. Putnam
Reed's Ferry
N. H.

Isaac Milo Maine
March 8 1851
Dumbarton

Milo, March 8, 1851

Dear Antoinette

I wrote to you as soon as I came out of the woods, a little more than a week since; but I directed the letter to Reeds Ferry, supposing that you were still there this term of the School, and it appears that you had not received it when you wrote. Your last letter has come to hand this week. This is rather an out of the way place, and the Mail now gets here but once in three or four days.

I am extremely sorry that my carelessness occasioned you trouble or anxiety. I was much to blame that I did not answer your letter in January, as soon as I received it and before I went away into the woods. I did not expect to be gone so long. Forgive me, and I will try to do better in future. I can imagine how troubled I should be at failing to hear from you, fearing that you were sick, and hardly knowing what evil to dread.

I presume that my last letter, directed to Reed's Ferry would be forwarded to you, and you probably received it very soon after writing.

I am here at home still; and quite in a quandary. I am very anxious to obtain work here in Maine: so as to be nearer home. I do not want to go out West or South, and that on many accounts.
I have had the assurance of Employment on this Penobscot & Kennebec Rail Road, where I was at work in December: but that Company have got into trouble, and cannot now arrange their affairs so as to begin. They expect to build the Road, partly upon the credit of the other Roads towards Portland: who are still willing to help, but the Bangor people have got into a quarrell about it among themselves, and the wealthiest men are now trying to divide their resources to build another Road.
Still they may settle their difficulties at any time, conclude to go on and build immediately, and offer me just the situation that I want.
On that account I dislike to go any where else.
Yet I can hardly bear to be entirely idle.
I feel as if I was losing ground in my business all the time; nor can I afford it.
Mr Everett, whom you perhaps remember, who was with me at Goffstown, and last Summer and Fall, is now in New York State.
He has got a very good situation on the New York and Erie Rail Road. I have been

wanting to go out there; and perhaps should before this time, if I had not constantly expected some decision about this Penobscot and Kennebec Rail Road.

Since I came out of the Woods, I have turned Farmer or Wood Chopper, and have been getting up and Chopping a 'Big' pile of Wood. If you should ride by the wood pile some day and see me, with my brother's old frock on, with my brown face, and hard farmer's hands, I do not think you would know me. They say however that I am one of the very best of "workers."

Sister Lucy is still here at Milo. We hope that her health improves slowly, but she is still feeble. Mother's health is very good.

I shall hope to hear from you again very soon, and that you will not remember against me your anxiety at not hearing from me.

I hope your father & Mother are well and all. Why did you conclude not to stay at Merrimack this term? or were you going back? I had hoped that you would stay there another term, if, as I thought, you would like so to do.

Do write soon, and believe me your

Sincere J. S. Metcalf

PAID. 5

Miss Antoinette B. Putnam

Dunbarton

N. H.

Isaac New York City
April 6. 1851

Dunbarton New York City, Sabbath. April 6. 1851

Dear Antoinette

I have not heard from you for some time, but think it likely that you have written, but I have been moving about so that your letter has had no chance to reach me.

I left Milo two weeks ago tomorrow, but did not get away from Waterville until the next Friday. I wanted much to go, if only for a day, up to New Hampshire and Dunbarton, but concluded it would not do to stop for it. I was coming right to New York that week; but learning that my Old Chief, Mr Field now of the Greenfield Branch, wanted to see me at Greenfield, I took that route, and went there Saturday. Montague where my cousins are is but a few miles from Greenfield, and I thought best to spend the Sabbath with them, which was quite pleasant.

Mr Field is anxious to have me upon the same Road with himself, but has nearly finished there, and has not yet decided where he shall be next. By his advice, I changed my plan, and went out across the Mountains upon the Line of the proposed Troy and Greenfield R.R. On this Line in the town of Florida, near Mt. Adams, is where the great Tunnel is projected. A Tunnel 4 Miles or more in length under the whole Mountain, 1200 feet below the top of one ridge and 1500 feet below the other, and 800 feet

below the valley between them, through which runs a small river! If built it will far surpass every other Rail Road work in the United States. The friends of the project are now quite confident of success, they hope to obtain a Loan of $2.000.000 from the State of Mass. If they do, a situation upon that Road is one of the strings of my bow!
The Chief Engineer who is now building the West End of the same Road, Mr Johnson, I served under upon the Vt. & Mass. R.R. Mr Johnson I found at Hoosick Falls N.Y. He recommended me to the Mohawk Valley R.R. and I concluded to go to Utica to see Mr Brodhead its Chief Engineer. Mr Brodhead is about the finest looking Engineer I have ever seen, and I think I should really like to serve with or under him. But I found that it was not likely to be decided for two months at least whether that Road is to be built immediately, and therefore came back to Albany, and down here Yesterday. And so here I am to spend the Sabbath in this "great city". I do not know as it is great as Nineveh was, but is is certainly a great city, and great too in wickedness and wrong. How full it is of temptations and how many are ruined by it's temptations.
And yet how much of good it must contain. To m[illegible] approaches it looks almost like a 'forest of Church Spires', and surrounded by a 'forest of Masts.' The Masts too in these days are pretty well mixed up with the great black steamboat chimneys.
If it continues to rain so very hard as it does now I do not think I shall get very far to Church this fore noon, if indeed I try to go at all.

I do not enjoy going to Church so well in a strange place where I do not even know who is to preach. One feels somewhat solitary. By the way, what solitude there is in a great city where one is entirely unacquainted. I am never lonesome in the woods, but really I came very near it as I walked these crowded streets last evening.

Well, I was very fortunate in getting to Church this forenoon in the rain. I entered the nearest, and found it the Old Brick Presbyterian Church, Gardner Spring's D.D. The Church was really pretty well filled in spite of the rain, and I think the most devout appearing Audience I ever saw in a City. And the Sermon was excellent indeed, upon Confidence in God.

This Afternoon I went away "Up town", to the Church of the Puritans Dr. Cheever's, I do not know how many miles, but it is a great ways, and both places are in the middle of the City! However I got there ~~in~~ long time before service; being "Up town" and Aristocratic, services do not commence till most Four. So I kept walking till then; among the rest looked in to the Magnificent Grace Church, and admired windows, ceilings, and Monuments. Dr Cheever preached at his Church, and was eloquent upon the Gospel Call, but I believe I did not like him or his brilliant Church quite as well as Dr Spring and his plain one.

One does not walk far in the streets here without realizing that he is out of New England. I went up today by way of Chatham St. and the Bowery, And in Many quarters saw the stores all open and business & every thing apparently like any day in the week. Away Up Town every thing was quiet and Sabbath like, or tolerably so, and looked like the Upper part of Boston, only greater and richer. I came down Broadway direct, and there again the thousands

of Genteel loafer and their Cigars did not look like New England.

Another thing a New Englander notices in this City, or in-deed any of the other smaller ones I have been in in New York. (Troy, Albany, Utica, Schenectady, Hudson, the greater variety of languages heard in street conversation and seen upon the signs. In some streets half the signs will be something besides English, from "Deutches Gast Haus", to "Coiffeur de Paris", &c. &c.

I made yesterday an application for a Situ-ation as Division Engineer upon the Great Illi-nois Central Rail Road. I shall remain here until Tuesday Morning, hoping to receive an answer. If not I think I shall start that day out over the Erie R.R.

I want much to hear from you, but do not know how to get letters, as I do not know, how far I shall go, or where, or when I shall get there Next Week, may find me in Virginia, or in al-most any of the Western States.

However I will write to you frequently, and let you know where I may be likely to get letters as soon as possible.

In the mean time my regards the family, and much love to yourself

Sincerely J. S. Metcalf

Please excuse this for it is dark

Isaac Milo Maine
April 25. 1851
Dunbarton

Milo. Maine [illegible] 1851

Dear Antoinette

I find myself once more here in Milo. I have not yet received your letter, [illegible] I learn that one [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] [illegible]. The [illegible] [illegible] [illegible], thinking to forward it to me [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] it. [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] it, [illegible] you [illegible] imagine [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] since I [illegible] heard from you.

I [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] Empire [illegible] this week to see you. [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] had I [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] getting [illegible] [illegible], [illegible] I [illegible] in [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] find [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] [illegible]

2.

I believe when I [illegible] to you I was in [illegible] [illegible] City. From there I went out over the N. Y. & Erie rail road, spending more than a week out in [illegible] [illegible] [illegible]. It is perhaps the most [illegible] line in the [illegible] and [illegible] [illegible] [illegible]. It is [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] [illegible]

[illegible]

[illegible]

By invitation of [illegible] Mr [illegible] the Superintending Engineer [illegible] one of a party of Engineers &c. going out over an unfinished part of the Road for a first experimental trip with a Locomotive; the first Locomotive in [illegible] country.

I formed considerable acquaintance with Mr Swift and like him very much. There is a new Rail Road projected from Hartford Conn. to Fishkill [illegible], to [illegible] there with the [illegible] Branch of the [illegible] R.R. of which Mr Swift who has a very high reputation will probably have charge. If so I have a promise of good situation upon it, which I think would suit me [illegible]. Would you not rather be in New England.

They are projecting a great abundance of new Rail Roads in [illegible] and [illegible] New York; but [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] of [illegible]. I do not wish to go upon another such Road as the N.Y. & Erie even if I am idle a while. And I do dislike being idle [illegible] as much as any one. I am so [illegible] and [illegible], and [illegible] [illegible]. I [illegible] to know just what I have to do and then I [illegible] to do it. [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] [illegible].

[illegible] I am [illegible] [illegible] [illegible], and [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] [illegible]

[illegible] Pleasant [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] good.

... the beautiful ...
Syracuse ...
... Cole and ...

I stopped at Troy N.Y. and came very near ...
... chance I could have there upon the Troy
and Boston Road, that End of it, did not suit me, if I ...
agree to remain there permanently in that situation
I should like very well to get a situation ...
End of that line when the Company ...
... the State of Mass. and go right on to build ...
through Hoosack Mountain. I should much like to
be connected with that work. But a ...
... ver End I did not like, and Mr ...
advised me not to stop for the place he could ...
Every good place being already well filled.

... remain ... a month or more. I ...
... East here again, and ... stop and be pa
tient. I have got some new scientific works ...
... and ...
... information.

Brother ...
... much ...

I must tell you how I found some relatives [illegible] in Western New York, in [illegible] [illegible] Co. A half brother of my Mother, who moved away from home [illegible] [illegible] years ago, into a [illegible], until the N.Y. & Erie R.R. was built [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] than [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] [illegible]. [illegible] I had never seen him or any of his family.

When I finally succeeded in informing him who I was he was glad enough to see me, and I was a good [illegible] pleased with my new found relations, a quiet [illegible] farmer's family with [illegible] and [illegible] and customs well preserved in a strange land. [illegible] [illegible] was quite a pleasant family of [illegible], boys and girls six in all. [illegible] of the girls, my [illegible] [illegible] old, was married last summer [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] when I was there. Quite a [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] [illegible].

I had a very pleasant visit there, [illegible].

[illegible] [illegible] [illegible] New York is [illegible] [illegible] the [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] [illegible]. Last [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] [illegible]. Why, here there is [illegible] and [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] [illegible], [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] [illegible].

I [illegible] hope to hear from you again [illegible] soon. [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] [illegible].

My [illegible] [illegible] [illegible]

[illegible] [illegible]

Isaac

May 22d 1851

Milo, Me. May 11, 1851

Dunbarton

Dear Antoinette,

It is sabbath afternoon, and the most beautiful of May weather. I could almost fancy myself in Italy or Greece as I look from my window upon the mellow haziness of the atmosphere, and the richness of the summer clouds that lie so still in the western sky.

I have not been at Meeting today, — for there was none to attend. I went to Sabbath School though, or rather to assist in organizing the Sabbath School for the season, which was fairly accomplished in due form, and with full prospect of interest and good. I think the Sabbath School will be very large in proportion to the whole attendance at Meetings. There seems a much more hopeful prospect of benefitting the young here than the older, and I am not sure that Ministers might not properly and profitably devote more of their attention and effort to the children. I heard one Minister, (Rev Mr Hayes of Frankfort Me), say last winter that he had for some years systematically devoted one half of his efforts, both in the pulpit and out, to the juvenile portion of his parish, and his only doubt was whether he should not a still larger portion.

The people here expect to have preaching now all, or about all, of the time; A Free Will Baptist "Elder" once a month, a Calvinist Baptist the same, and Congregationalist half the Sabbaths; all in the same house, — or Hall. The Meetings are held in Sons of Temperance Hall.

The Congregationalist Minister is a young man from New Hampshire, Mr Partridge, of Peterboro' I believe. He preaches half of the time in this, and half in the adjoining town of Sebec, Half of his Salary is paid by the Maine Missionary Society, one quarter by people of each town. Mr P. is a very young man, and I should judge of very defective education. Still he seems to be very well liked here, and I hope will be very useful. He is lately married. One thing is perhaps favorable now in Milo; the free harmony and apparent union between the different denominations, shown in every thing. The S. S. Superintendent is a Baptist, the Teachers of the three denominations indiscriminately.

Saturday. May 17. I commenced this letter nearly a week since, but remembering that you were probably not at home, and would not get it if I sent it there, I laid it by. I suppose you have been for a week or two past in Massachusetts visiting your relatives, and, I hope & presume, enjoying yourself finely. I shall expect to hear, by your next letter, of a very agreeable visit. Sometime, we will expect, if Providence permit, to visit some of our Uncles and Cousins, yours and mine, together, and enjoy it nicely.

I have been enjoying myself pretty well I believe since I last wrote you; perhaps spending my time more pleasantly than profitably, as far as any pecuniary profit at least is concerned. I have generally read and studied a part, nearly a half, of every day, and the rest of the time have been at work on the Farm. I do love and enjoy farming and farm work. I believe about the best of any employment. I like to take right hold of the work, and the hardest of it, and work all the

time, and though I have practised it so little since I was a boy, I find that I can do most things about as well, and endure as much fatigue as any of the farmers. I do not know but I had better propose to my brother to pay me the same wages he does a hired man; I believe I have done about as much work while I have been here. To give you the detail of my avocations would be to go through the whole list of Farmers "Spring Work"

I sometimes think that Nature must have intended me for a Farmer, and really if I were able to do it as I would like, I might sometime give up other occupations and devote myself to that. Had I better go out West and make a farm of some beautiful prairie!

You hope that I will not be "low spirited". I believe I am not very apt to suffer much in that way. I never had what people call "the blues" and which some really suffer so much from. I think that I rather enjoy the present constitutionally, and instead of looking upon the dark side of the future, am perhaps too much inclined not to think of it at all!

The Season here I think has been rather backward. It is perhaps little farther advanced here now than I saw it in Southern New York a month since, though the weather is now warmer here. Only the earliest trees are in full leaf now, Poplars, White Birch &c. Maples, Elms, Larches, and Apple trees are but just beginning to open their leaves. Among my other jobs, I have been transplanting trees here, some fruit trees, and some forest trees. Flowers I believe are not very abundant here this Spring.

or, at least, I have seen only the most common and familiar varieties. Those however are old and long loved favorites, now some of them doubly dear, though calling up emotions of sadness, associated as they are with the memory of my dear Brother, who loved them so well.

[illegible]

May 20th

Has not this letter been long in writing

Isaac  Chicago Illinois
June 15 1851.

Chicago. Illinois. June 13. 1851

Dumbarton

Dear Antoinette

It seems a great while since I heard from you, or indeed since I last wrote to you. I have been waiting and waiting, and hoping and expecting that I should soon have something more definite to write. But I will delay it no longer, even though I lack one of the dearest incentives to writing — the expectation of an immediate answer.

How I have wandered about since I last wrote to you! I must give you the history of my journeyings I believe — if I can remember it.

I came to Bangor, very soon after I wrote to you, and remained there a few days. Tuesday May 27, I journeyed from Bangor to Boston by Stage Coach, and Rail Way. Wednesday forenoon I spent in Boston in some business, procuring some Grave Stones &c. In the afternoon I went to Greenfield Mass. The next day was very rainy and I remained there all day, or rather at Montague, where my Cousins live.

Friday, May 30, I went to Hartford Conn., but very soon found that there was very little prospect that any thing of consequence would be done upon the Hartford & Fishkill Road for some time, perhaps not even this season. So I was entirely <u>out</u> there. If I had immediately returned to Springfield and gone on to Albany at once, I might have been better off.

But I wanted to see a little more of Hartford, and concluded to remain, and so go right on to New York City, and spend the Sabbath there. I went over to Brooklyn to Meeting, & though I did not hear the preacher I was expecting, I was very much pleased. It was Rev A. L. Stone of Boston, who it appeared had exchanged with Dr Storrs of Brooklyn. I had been wishing to hear Mr Stone; and his Eloquence was indeed all I could have expected. I thing his Sermons were about the most elegant I ever heard. The thought was excellent, while the expression was beautiful and polished to the highest degree.

Going up to Albany on Monday, I found that if I had been there only a day or two sooner, I might have had a good situation, probably just about what I should want, upon the Albany & Susquehanna R.R. Albany to Binghampton. Mr Edward C. Delavan, the celebrated Temperance Man, is the President of the Company, and the principal man. I began to think myself unlucky, but went on to Utica, remaining there Tuesday June 3. When I was there before I had had about the promise of a situation upon the Mohawk Valley R.R. Utica to Schenectady, if I would wait until June. But now it appeared that the Company had become involved in an intrigue with the Old Corporation; were quite likely even to sell out, and do nothing. At any rate there would be nothing done for a month or two. So I went on.

I stopped at Canandaigua, at Rochester, at Batavia, Attica, and Buffalo; but found no business for me.

Perhaps I could have done better If I had been there a month

or two sooner. There is a great deal doing in RailRoads in Western NewYork; a great many new projects. But I am unaquainted there, Nobody knows me. If I could have been out there for a year or two past, so as to be known in almost any capacity, I think I might this Spring have been pretty well situated, perhaps a Chief Engineer on some Road. I really have the vanity to believe that there are some not truly better qualified than myself, who are now receiving two or three thousand dollars a year.

I spent the Sabbath, June 8th, at Westfield N.Y. with my Sister Anne, who I believe I have told you is since Jan. last a Teacher in Westfield Academy. I enjoyed a day or two in Westfield very much. Westfield is a beautiful place; Mr Rumsey's where my Sister boards is a very pleasant family. I really felt almost at home at once. Mr Tinker, the Presbyterian Minister at Westfield, formerly I think a Missionary at Sandwich Islands, is an excellent preacher. one of the best.

Monday 9th, was so windy that the Steamboats could not call in at Westfield or Barcelona. So I rode to Erie, Penn by Stage Coach thro the night, and remained there one day. Then at Cleaveland Ohio, one day; and at Detroit, Michigan, and today have safely arrived at Chicago Illinois. One can get about pretty fast nowadays, even and stop a while occasionally. The Michigan Central R.R. across the the whole State from Detroit to New Buffalo or Michigan City, in ten or twelve hours, saves considerable time above a Steamboat passage around the Lakes. I should think however that the Steamboat passage must be extremely pleasant in good weather. By some time next year it is expected that

there will be a continuous RailRoad Route completed and running all the way from Buffalo to Chicago, and perhaps even to Galena. It will certainly be quite a convenience to travellers in the winter season.

It might not much interest you, if I had time and room to write you all my observations, reflections, and memoranda upon all the towns, cities, places, and routes I have visited. Many of them you know something about. I have taken time to look at most a little at least. Canandaigua, Westfield, and Cleaveland, I think are about the handsomest places I ever saw. Rochester, Buffalo, and Chicago the most active and prosperous.

I think I shall go from here to Springfield next. Perhaps remain here over the Sabbath though. It is thought now that I can have employment upon this Great Illinois Central R.R. that is to be; the whole length of the State, from Cairo on the Mississippi River, diverging somewhere to two Northern Termini, Chicago, and Galena. It is a great project, but Boston & New York Capitalists have undertaken it with the help of large grants of land from government, and it is doubtless to be built as fast as possible.

I intend to meet Col. Mason, who has been appointed Chief Engineer of the Whole, at Springfield Illinois, sometime next week, last of the week probably he is to be there. Farther than that I can tell nothing what I shall do. But I will write to you again as soon as any thing is decided. I shall go to La Salle by Canal, then by Steamboat to Naples, and Rail Road to Springfield, I think.

This is really a long letter, and it seems as if I had hardly begun to write any thing. How I do want to hear from you as well as from Maine. I have not heard a word, since I started, and I am anxious all the time about Lucy's health.

It is 11, and I slept but little last night, I must stop.
This letter will not hold half the love I want to send to you.
I must send that by Telegraph; Some to Father & Mother, — Brother & Sister

Sincerely J. S.

Isaac Springfield Illinois
June 21 1851
Dunbarton

Springfield Illinois, Sat. Eve. June 21. 1851.

Dear Antoinette

What will you think to hear that besides being away in this land, I am here away from every body, with no business, and out of money, in the midst, not of Fever & Ague merely, but of both Cholera & Small Pox! Why, I could make out quite a strong case! And "founded on fact" too!

However, I guess the case is in reality not quite so bad.

I came here, as I think I wrote to you I should, to meet Col R. B. Mason, who was to be here, the 20th & 21st, inst. The great freshet and roads broken up, have prevented his getting here, and we hear this evening that he has taken another route and gone back to Chicago. Thus leaving me in the lurch.

However, I have met here with another gentleman connected with the Road, who is pretty fully acquainted with its affairs, and knows where I am most needed. He wishes me to proceed at once to the Southern Division, and I think I will on Monday. I had preferred to remain somewhere toward the northern part of the State, thinking that would be more healthy; but it seems their lines are running all back on the high grounds, away from the Marshes, and it may really be the healthiest part of the route. Cairo is very low & unhealthy, and now all under water, but their Head quarters are to be at Caledonia, 15 Miles above and they do not go near Cairo, at present.

I had quite a tiresome journey from Chicago here, four days; 100 Miles by Canal, 200 Miles by Steamboat on the Illinois River, and 60 Miles by RailWay.

The Flood on the Illinois River is immense. The River much of the way appears to be boundless; On the Wooded banks the trees are to be seen, but no land. And the Villages, or Cities they call them here, along the banks are almost entirely submerged. Frequently the Steamboat Landings are made to the second story of Warehouses and in some cases the second floor even has been exceeded by the water. I never saw any thing like it. At Naples we left the Steamboat for the second floor of the Depot Warehouse; Boats instead of Carriages were waiting to convey passengers Up town to the Hotels, where we dined upon a floating floor, the water being considerably into the house, and four or five feet deep around it. After dinner we were carried in boats perhaps quarter of a mile farther to where the cars stood, above the Village.

I should think they might have most any diseases at Naples! And the Cholera does prevail there I understand and the Small Pox too, and brought from there, there have been a few Cases at Springfield.

I found some acquaintances here, families from Maine named Greenleaf. One is a Conductor upon this R. Road, and took the Varaoloid at Naples, and communicated it to his family. His Wife, formerly Martha Lee of Milo, and a very beautiful Woman, had it severely, and is like to be badly marked. She has but lately recovered.

The Cholera I do not feel at all afraid of. It appears to be confined entirely to the intemperate, dissipated and suffering. I presume that with proper prudence and attention, there is no sort of danger for a person of correct habits. Noticing the habits of people here, I have wondered they did not most all die of Cholera or something else.

Sabbath Afternoon

This forenoon at the First Presbyterian Church I heard I think quite a character; Rev Dr Smith, an old Scotchman, a very big man very awkward & slovenly in his appearance, strongly nasal in his pronunciation; but, I judge, very extensively educated {I can think of no better term} a great logician and reasoner, considerably eloquent and with as much power, depth and compass of voice as I ever heard. He is certainly a great preacher! I think very few men could be more effective as a field preacher. His sermon this forenoon was an excellent one, about an hour long, of close argument, without notes, and by no means dull.

They have no Afternoon service in the churches here. The morning service is at 10½ A.M. the other at 7½ P.M.

I believe I must stop, and write a little to the Folks in Maine, just to let them know I am going to St. Louis tomorrow, thence by Steam boat to Cairo and Caledonia. I believe I shall go by Stage Coach to Alton Ill. then over to St. Louis, and take one of the Ohio River Boats.

Yours sincerely
J. S.

PAID

10

Miss Antoinette B. Putnam
Dunbarton
New Hampshire

Isaac [illegible] Chester Illinois
[illegible] 2[illegible] 1851

Dunlinton [illegible]
[illegible] Illinois, [illegible] Jan 2[illegible], 1[illegible]1

Dear [illegible]

[illegible] Sunday [illegible] this [illegible] evening. I have not [illegible] Church at all today. It has been a very rainy day, [illegible] Illinois [illegible] mud is very [illegible]. [illegible] is a [illegible] way [illegible], and at the top [illegible] a very [illegible] up. [illegible] being [illegible] [illegible] ten [illegible] undertake to go up. I hear [illegible] however that there was a meeting in the A.M. and ten persons present, but this afternoon the Minister did not attempt to go. He is an old School Presbyterian, formerly of Louisville Ky.

So I have been in my room all day, reading some, and I must confess, sleeping some. I was happy to find [illegible] in this [illegible], as indeed I have frequently in the West, the Am. Tract Soc. Evan. Family Library Series, in which one can always find good reading.

I have written a letter to my Mother this afternoon, and have been thinking a good deal of "Away Down East" [illegible] Mother, [illegible] and Sisters at [illegible] & Bangor, and of your dear se[illegible].

You can hardly imagine how anxious I am becoming to hear from you all, or what an age it seems since I have heard.

Only to think what a long time it has been, almost five weeks since I left Bangor, and have not heard from there since, and longer still since I heard from you!

I believe I wrote to you last from Springfield about a week ago. [illegible] Allen's [illegible] Stage Coach [illegible] What a ride across these prairies, sometimes [illegible] as [illegible] as the [illegible] Ocean, sometimes [illegible] beautiful groves of timber; and [illegible] prairie flowers. But I cannot describe it; and you have seen the Prairies for yourself.

I did not stop at Alton. I have had a [illegible] dislike for Alton and have considered it [illegible] as under a curse since the death of Lovejoy. I went to St. Louis and stopped there one day, and was surprised [illegible] its wealth, business & prosperity. From St Louis I went around [illegible] to Caledonia on the [illegible] River where I remained one day, and then came around here. My destination is back in Perry County some fifty miles

perhaps East of here, I do not know but more, it is along the [illegible] edge of the County. I wanted to go there Saturday night, but [illegible]

My Contract with the Illinois Central R.R. Co. is only Conditional at present. [illegible] [illegible] to remain, as they could not just now offer me [illegible] situation as I want. But in the mean time [illegible] to go to work, helping [illegible], and the [illegible] with me to [illegible] long the offer of a proper situation. If not, I shall not remain.

[illegible] my present situation my pay is only $65.00 [illegible] month, and expenses paid. As I expect, it will be $90. or 100.& expenses. It is said to be a very healthy region where I am going. Some say the most healthy part of the whole [illegible], but I know nothing how I shall like it as yet. If I do not like, or the Climate does not agree with me, I shall not remain. That is certain.

I suppose that my Post Office Address will be.

Mount Hawkins, Perry Co. Ill.

but I guess [illegible] I will not mail this letter until I get out there and know more definitely what my place is to be.

Aug 6.

[illegible]

[illegible]

[illegible]

I [illegible] likely to write much more, as my conveniences for such things are by no means extensive [illegible] much [illegible] near my [illegible].

Hoping to hear [illegible] soon, [illegible] that you and yours are well and happy, I remain

Yours [illegible]

[illegible]

Isaac Jackson Co. Illinois
July 6 1851

Dunbarton Sabbath Afternoon July 6. 1851.

I cannot give the name of this place for I doubt if it has one. It is somewhere in Jackson Co. Ill; about [illegible] miles [illegible] of [illegible]. The place itself is simply the residence of an old Pennsylvanian Dutch [illegible], [illegible] everybody and every where.

I wish you could see the house. It is a Log house or rather two Log houses [illegible] 1 dozen feet apart. One room each with a roof over the space between, thus making a third room with the ends all open. This third or middle room is, at this season at least, the one [illegible] used and is a sitting and eating room and is really very comfortable.

The family here I should think must be near a dozen, and our party [illegible] about as many more! Only three rooms you remember!

This is said to be one of the best stopping places in this region!

However there is a good airy barn upon the premises, and beside the porch [illegible] is an [illegible], and as [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] lodging.

The [illegible] trouble in this country is the want of good water. The people here make this the reason for indulging immoderately in Coffee and also [illegible]. In fact [illegible] [illegible] with [illegible] [illegible] his [illegible] and [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] whiskey. Very persisting in taking it pure [illegible] [illegible]. There [illegible] [illegible] whiskey as others would in milk!

Last Sabbath I did [illegible] to Church. To day I have [illegible] [illegible] [illegible], so I am here in a [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] [illegible]

of a [illegible]. [illegible] is the [illegible] side of the [illegible], where upon a [illegible] bench I have my books & paper spread before me and am [illegible] [illegible] [illegible]. It is a very warm day and the sun shines [illegible], but the [illegible] is by no means [illegible], the logs of which it is composed touching each other only at the [illegible] and the [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] [illegible].

I suppose you, as well as my Mother may be a little anxious about my health; but I do not feel at all apprehensive about it; and beside am under no obligation to remain, and shall leave at once if I find the Climate affects me. I have [illegible] delayed or refrained from [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] arrange[illegible], upon those very grounds.

[illegible] Chester Monday last, arriving [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] Head [illegible] is [illegible] [illegible] Mount Hawkins Perry Co. [illegible] that is the name of the nearest Post Office. [illegible] is "Locust Hill" [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] here or at [illegible] [illegible], [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] of Muddy River, and have [illegible] been [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] days, [illegible] [illegible] [illegible].

I ought to have [illegible] this letter [illegible], [illegible] I am [illegible] [illegible] anxious [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] you: but [illegible] if I would [illegible] [illegible] I [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] the [illegible]. [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] I [illegible] [illegible] more than before; but have been very [illegible] [illegible] in getting [illegible] started. and have had [illegible] [illegible] to send to the [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] Post Office [illegible]! [illegible] the days [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] get a letter from you.

[illegible] will write as soon as [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] "[illegible] [illegible] [illegible]" Mt. Hawkins Perry co. Ill.

If I do not [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] [illegible], before [illegible] time, [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] in New Hampshire

Isaac   McHawkins Ill
Aug 2 1851

McHawkins Perry Co. Ill. Aug. 2. 1851

Dear Antoinette

Your kind & excellent letter was received yesterday, and with very great pleasure I assure you. It had been so long since I heard from you; and I was getting very impatient and anxious. And I have not yet heard from home, Mother, Brother & Sister. Letters had a little farther to go there you know than to you which would make the greatness one or two days later, but I shall now expect them next mail at any rate.

I am very much obliged to you for writing immediately on the receipt of my letter. A single day when one is waiting is a good while. I should have written the day I received yours, but that there is no mail until Monday.

As you may imagine, I have by this time had considerable experience of Life among the Suckers. I have certainly learned a good many new things. We have made a Survey of 50 miles through Southern Illinois. I can tell you so you can trace our course on the Map. If on your Maps the Base Lines & Meridians of the U. S. Government Land Surveys are laid down, it is easily traced. We commenced where the "Third Principal Meridian", (which is nearly the Meridian of Cairo & Vandalia) crosses Big Muddy River in Jackson County, and run North through Jackson, Perry & Washington Counties to the "Base Line" which is thirty or forty miles South of Vandalia. The whole distance, Eastern people would think almost uninhabited; they call it here pretty well settled, which means simply that there is an occasional farm, say from one to twelve miles apart. I think that in the fifty miles we did not pass within ten miles

of any village containing 100 inhabitants;—No not 20 inhabitants, I think.

I write to you some description of our first stopping place.
It is and such all the way through, some perhaps a little better, and some worse. I should have preferred taking a tent with our wagon, and making ourselves as comfortable as we could with our own shelter, but the arrangements were made before I came, partly from the impossibility of finding Water except at the houses. So we boarded very well at the Farmer's houses. On one account I liked the Arrangement. It gave greater facilities for getting acquainted with the people, mode of life &c. &c. I suppose the people here are quite different from those in the northern part of Illinois. Here they are mostly from the South, some few from Ohio & Pennsylvania. Most all came here very poor. This is however one of the most fertile regions in the world; Almost every kind of crop, Cotton, Rice, & tobacco, as well as wheat, corn & Oats, grow here with very little labor. The people are the most indolent I ever saw and yet every one has big fields of corn, and great herds of Cattle and hogs. They all eat Cornbread & Bacon, and drink Sour milk, and lots of coffee. They seem to want nothing more; only some sort of a log hovel for shelter; or if they ever think of more, are too lazy to work for it. Still they have many good qualities, are kindhearted hospitable, and if they would take as much pains, or exert themselves to better themselves as they will to accommodate or oblige another, they might soon be comfortably off. A real "Yankee" is quite a curiosity to most of these people, and they thought it at first to see a man eat that will drink neither Coffee or Sour Milk. As well as I can judge however they generally form a pretty good opinion of a "Yankee"!

One of the worst things here is the water. I have always been in habit of drinking a good deal, especially when employed out of doors. I soon got so as to like the River water, (well iced) even the Creek water colored

water of the Missouri. It tastes well, if one does not think how it looks. Those I believe who get accustomed to it, prefer it to any other water.
Back here in the Vegetation, there are no springs, and no running water "branches". Creeks, and indeed rivers, are all dry most of the time, or at least while I have been here. All the water, even for great herds of cattle is from Wells. These are 20 to 60 ft. deep, through Sand Stone mostly. The water looks well, but it really made me sick at first. It is very hard, and has a sickish mineral taste. It has an unpleasant effect upon strangers, but those who get accustomed to it, like the taste.
The only good water I have seen was from a few cemented Cisterns in which one or two preserve rain water. As for drinking vessels there is as great a variety as you mention: perhaps the most common however is a gourd shell hollowed out!
Every thing however, it is easily seen, is very rapidly improving throughout this Country: new settlers coming in, and the Old trying trying far more than ever before to improve.
The Country itself is beautiful, beautiful exceedingly. The Climate, at this season, seems occasionally rather warm to a New Englander. The People here though complain more of the Cold than the heat. One rarely suffers from the heat in the prairie, as there is usually a fine cooling breeze; but where the sun shines in the timber, sheltered from the winds it is hot indeed. And in the Prairie if one sits or lies down among the thick grass, the ground is so dry and the sunshine so hot, it seems like a heated oven at once; while standing up or better sitting on a horse it is very comfortable. The warmest place I have seen is in running a line through the Great Cornfields, where the corn is eight or ten feet high, as it grows here, and pretty effectually keeps off the air.
We completed our Survey 1½ 'Mi' a week ago, and came here to make up Plans, Profiles and Calculations for one week. On Monday we shall take the field again, commencing near the same point on Muddy River, and

running North again, upon other line and survey.

I must tell you another thing.
You know I came on here without promising to stay. The agreement was simply that I should come out and go to work, and receive $2.50 per diem while I staid. Upon settlement at the end of July I am allowed $3.00 per diem for the whole time. Moreover I find myself set down from August 1st, for $3.50 per diem.
So I begin to think that I can do well out here, if I find that the Climate agrees well with me. I find that Southern Illinois has been considered very unhealthy for Eastern men. Part of the time I have thought it was for me. One while I thought I should certainly leave at the end of July. The water I suppose affected me very much at first; I had quite a Diarrhea or Dysentery rather, which made me very weak; and in the so very hot languid weather I could not recover strength at all. For a week or two I really seemed incapable of as much active effort, mental or physical, in a day, as usually in an hour or two. Any effort, under the scorching sun wilted me at once, and fatigued and lamed me for a long time. But within two or three weeks showers have sprung up an cooled the air and the ground, the breezes seem fresher, the atmosphere purer, the earth less parched, and my health and strength seem very well restored. The Old Settlers say my acclimation is very favorable: I have no doubt that it is much more so than if I had followed the almost universal prescription, to put brandy always with my water, and plenty of Coffee with my bacon, as too many even of Eastern men do in coming here.

I am very glad indeed that you like Illinois; for if I conclude to try and stay out here, I shall very soon be wanting you to come out here with me. I shall not be contented to stay here long alone I can assure you.
My love & regard to Father, Mother, brother & Sister — to Miss M. Raymond, if you see her & please. I liked Miss Raymond best of all my acquaintances in S.H. after Antoinette. I shall be waiting most earnestly to hear from you again soon as possible. Sincerely Yours J. S. Metcalf

Sabbath Aug. 3.

The lack of Sabbath priviliges is the worst thing here. I have been out in Perry, Jackson & Washington Counties since July 1st, and have been able to attend meeting but one Sabbath. We have been unusually badly situated how ever in that respect. There is usually Methodist Preaching of some sort, often poor, most every where about the Country. Most of the people appear to be Methodists, and their Ministers are very abundant.

By riding 4 or 5 miles, I attended meeting one day at Du Quoin, where are several families of Eastern people. and a Presbyterian preacher, half the time at least, supported in part by the Missionary Society.

Mr Roots, to whose care I wanted my first letters directed before I became known as I now am at the P.O. ~~with whom~~ in whose house I stop when here, is an Episcopalian: what they call a __Lay Reader__, and holds service regularly in due form in his house every Sabbath.

Mr Roots has kept a large boarding School here; but is now connected with the R.R. his house is a large one of __Eastern__ fashion, but out in the Prairie, a mile or two from neighbors, and many miles from any where

You must have had a very pleasant visit among your friends in Mass.
I wish I could have met you in Boston.
I am glad you visited Mt. Auburn. It is indeed a lovely place. It is several years since I have been there much; but I have enjoyed it much. In fact I almost always visit the Cemeteries in every new place I visit, and usually enjoy it much; especially if a beautiful one like Mt. Auburn. Do you remember the peice in Proverbial Philosophy upon Death. I am fond of that.
Lockport Ill. where you stopped, I did not really see, as we passed there on the Canal by Night. It is called a very flourishing place now. The North part of Illinois, and especially the region about the Canal is increasing in population, wealth, and prosperity very rapidly indeed. It is very different now from this South Part. The North has a large proportion of New England Men, and much enterprize
The South however is Coming, and is to come forward very rapidly Now. It is easy to see a "transition State" now in every thing.

Isaac [illegible] Hawkins' [illegible] to [illegible]
[illegible] 14 1851.

Mount Hawkins, [illegible] Co. Illinois.
Sabbath Morning. Sept. 14. 1851.

[illegible] [illegible]

Your kind letter I received and eagerly read upon my arrival here last night somewhat late. I have just been reading it again this morning. How long seems the time it takes letters to go from here to New England & back. I seem to realise more and more every week how very far away I have placed myself. I believe the mails arrive here securely, but by no means very [illegible]. Since I have been here I have received one letter from Bangor one week, and the next one mailed at the same Office two weeks earlier than the one first received.

I had begun to get quite impatient and anxious before I got your letter. I should have written again before receiving yours but, thinking of it almost every day, I kept expecting that the next day I should get a letter. Another trouble here is that I do not always get letters as soon as they arrive here. I am now moving about considerable, and sometimes am not here for nearly a whole month, and when I am away twenty or thirty miles, I find I do well if I hear from the Post Office as often as once a week. The letters I found here last night had been awaiting me here for three or four days. I believe though that letters are almost doubly prized when I do get them.

As you, and other friends caution me a good deal about [illegible] [illegible], I must have my turn in [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] careful and not overfatigue yourself in domestic duties and get sick. I presume you are an accomplished housekeeper and certainly [illegible] should add me to the number of your visitors and enjoy your hospitality for a day or [illegible] at least. I wish I could be there today and enjoy a quiet [illegible] and Sabbath. It is a great privation to be so [illegible] of [illegible] privileges as one must be here. [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] of mine, [illegible] and

communion with God any where, yet I certainly find it difficult to enjoy such Sabbath of the heart, when entirely removed from the usual & appointed Means of grace. There are many professors of Religion here, perhaps nearly as large a part of the population as in New England. They are mostly Methodists and various sorts of Baptists, but mostly very ignorant; quite a large part of the old settlers here cannot read or write; and many of them, judging by their conduct & habits, we should think hardly half Christianized. The customs of the Country are so different, and the mode of life and the necessities of the case so strange, that they must be looked upon with much charity.

Here at Mr Roots' place, which is my home here, there is a regular Episcopal service every Sabbath, Mr Roots being what they call "Lay reader". I can enjoy this service & Sermon pretty well in lack of any better suited to my taste.

Since I wrote before I have had various Sabbath experience. The first Sabbath in Aug. I believe I wrote you. I was here. The Second. I was down in Jackson Co. and went seven miles to Vergennes, where is a Presbyterian Church, but found the Minister sick and no preaching. There was however a Prayer meeting and Sabbath School, and afterwards a Methodist Class Meeting, which I attended. I had never been at one before. I rather liked it. Did you ever attend one? It seems to me the institution rightly managed may be a beneficial one in many cases. I judge it might have all the good there could be in the Roman Catholic Confessional, and some more.

~~[illegible]~~ enjoyed the Sabbath much, though there was a violent shower in the Afternoon, and I was obliged to ride back through woods & Prairies without road in the very dark night. However, being an Engineer I found the way without difficulty.

The Next Sabbath, Aug. 17, the day you were writing to me. I was at the Presbyterian Church in Du Quoin in this County.

The 24th I was at this place.

Aug. 31st & Sept. 7. I was in Grand Prairie, Jefferson Co, 10 Miles from Meeting, and most sick

I was attacked a little more than a fortnight since, with a kind of fever; Remittent Fever they Call it, I suppose a disease of the Country. I was not really much sick, thought I could be out every day, but they say here that exposure to the hot Sun is the very worst thing, and would soon make me very sick. My symptoms were only pain in my head & neck, and alternate days a few hours of fever heat & thirst. I thought it best to be careful in season, and so found Comfortable Quarters with Dr Lucas, "Hillsville" Grand Prairie, Jefferson Co. and "took it easy."
8 or 9 days
In all week before last, I went out but two days and then did little or nothing. In Dr H.B. Lucas I found a really kind friend.
Last week I was out about all the week, doing hardly any thing however, but ride about, with an umbrella over my head. It has been very unusually warm weather for two or three weeks past, and I find it does not do at all to expose myself to the Sunshine now. If I do not feel a good deal better tomorrow I rather think I shall not go out any more at present, but confine myself to work in the Office until my health & strength are fully restored. If I do so I shall probably go down to Jonesboro 30 or 40 Miles South of this where I can have much better Office Conveniences than here. I have plenty to do in Office but dislike to go now, as I suppose my presence in field would be worth perhaps $100.00 per week to the R.R. interests for a few weeks longer. But I feel that health is of the greatest importance to all concerned, as well as myself and all agree here that it must be strictly attended to.
Now do not be anxious on my account; You see how extremely Cautious I am & intend to be. I have not been really sick yet. I am going in Office, and all allow that without the exposure there is no healthier Country than this.

Three weeks since I was beginning to plan how to establish myself and [illegible] here. I thought my health was getting established, and my business prospects were & are certainly good. You know my wages were increased the first of August, and I had the strongest assurances

of still better situations and permanent employment.

But I now am almost getting discouraged about it. If I cannot live in health here, it is not worth while for me to stay. I shall go into Office and stay a few weeks until cooler weather and see if I regain my health. Of course as soon as I dare to make any plans or arrangements for the future, you will be informed of them at once.

So you think George will not go to College. It is very natural that, as a College graduate, I should have a prejudice in favor of a College Education. There are advantages at a good College, which cannot be found elsewhere. Still one may obtain as thorough mental cultivation without a College Course, for after all the success of the student depends, not upon advantages or circumstances, but upon himself alone.

Mr Roots at whose house I am is originally from Connecticut, son of a Presbyterian Clergyman. He was an engineer on the Western R.R. Came out here some twelve years since when the State was trying to build Railroads. When the Rail Roads failed & stopped, he lost his business, but had embarked his property in Illinois Land Speculation and could not get away. He became a very successful Teacher here, but has now gone to Engineering again, and is one of our Ill Central Engineers.

Mr Hatch, of whom you speak, I have seen. He was a member of Waterville College while I was at Bowdoin, but we were Brothers of the same Society, the "Delta Kappa Epsilon".

I receive letters from Maine frequently, one last night. Mother brothers & Sisters are well as usual. Sister Lucy's health & strength are improving. Brother Elijah was out west even as far as Chicago, upon business, last Month. He would have visited me, but found it would take as long to come from Chicago here as to go home, and he could not spare the time: so I had to be contented with letters and with thinking that he was only a few hundred miles off.

Well I must close, with love to Father, Mother, brother and Sister, and to Antoinette in particular and especially.

Sincerely
[illegible]

You must excuse this kind of letter paper & envelope. I have used up my [illegible] service, and this appears to be the only kind we can have here.

Isaac Jonesboro Union Co. Ill.

Oct. 12. 1851

Jonesboro. Union Co. Illinois
Sabbath Eve. Oct. 12. 1851

Dear Antoinette

I have not yet received letter from you, though I am beginning to look quite earnestly for one.
I have been intending however to write for some time, in fact ever since I wrote last, at Locust Hill.
In fact, my conscience has smitten me just a little, in regard, both to that letter to you, and one to my Mother, written at the same time; though indeed I have consoled myself with the reflection that you were both more easy for me withholding a part of the truth.
It was in this way, the letters were both written on Sabbath Morning, and I felt then as well as usual, indeed better than the day before. The letters of course were not mailed or sent to the Post Office until the next day, but the same Sabbath Afternoon, while the letters lay unsealed upon my table, I was seized with the Ague of the very worst kind. Entirely unexpected it was too. I had got asleep in my room after Service, and suddenly waked trembling & shaking with the cold, and the thermometer perhaps at 90 in the Shade.
Well I had it the very worst sort, as I thought, for most of the week, and stupid enough it made me feel I assure you. On alternate afternoons I would have a regular shaking spell, and fever in the evening; the intermediate days, I would have a little chill just about dark; but it made me dull & stupid all the time.

I think it was rather an obstinate attack; at any rate we did not succeed in "breaking it" until Friday, and I did not begin to feel like myself until the next week. However I was very fortunate in being at Mr. Root's. I was excellently well taken care of, and Mrs. Root's was kind to me as a Mother.
The Ague made me quite weak, too much so to travel, or I do not know but I should have left for the East at once if it would do for me to get away. However I came down here in a few day, have remained here since, and am likely to to for a while to come. Week before last I was out last of the week and exposed myself a little too much, and on Saturday 4 inst. was attacked with the ague again, and on the Sabbath was really quite sick, so I was entirely unable to write at any rate.
But by the help of a Physician I soon threw it off very easily, and am now getting on finely.
Is not that quite a long story of the ague? Well, it has interested me considerable.
I have had lately considerable prospect of the appointment of Division Engineer of this Division of about 120 Miles, and a post commanding some two to three thousand a year salary. The first incumbent has proved incompetent and was yesterday superseded. I came very near getting it I find, and very possibly should if I had been acquainted with Col. R. B. Mason the Engineer in Chief a little sooner. However, it is undoubtedly all

for the best; though I have the vanity to believe I am competent to take the Office: still it would have been hard for me; the climate to which I should have been confined is undeniably a bad one &c.

Though failing of the Div. Engineership, I believe I have acquired the good opinion of Col. Mason, which must be valuable to me. He has been pleased to appoint me to remain in Charge ad interim until the new Div. Eng., previously appointed, arrives; during which time I shall have $5.00 per diem and little to do.

It has now come cold weather & rain, and I can doubtless be healthy here until Spring. Still I have been intending to leave at once if I did not get the appointment.

Col. Mason however wishes me to remain permanently; says I shall have besides the $4.00 per diem which is the highest wages paid to subordinates on this Road, some extra priveliges, and the chance for any vacancy or appointment in his gift.

So you see the condition of things, and I want you to help me decide what to do. Where, or in what part of the State I can be cannot yet be told; as every thing is entirely unsettled, and will be for a little till ready to put under Contract. I do not want to remain in this bad unhealthy South of the State, in Egypt.

This is a strange letter, and especially to write on the Sabbath evening, but I must close it, as it is getting late and tomorrow I must think much & hard of other things. Advise me, think & pray for me.

Sincerely
J. S.

Miss Antoinette B. Putnam

Dumbarton

New Hampshire

[illegible] — Jonesboro Union Co. Ill.
Oct. 19. 1851

Jonesboro, Union Co. Illinois
Sabbath, Oct. 19. 1851

Dear Antoinette

I received last evening your letter of Sept. 23. Has it not been a long time in reaching me? It arrived at the [illegible] Post Office however more than a week since. The mails are very slow and very irregular here.

It seems that we both thought alike and at once about writing without [waiting] for an answer. I sent a letter to Dunbarton about a week ago, having become entirely tired of waiting for the slow coming around of the mails. Hence it is perhaps uncertain which you will receive first, this or that.

I am very sorry to hear of your mother's sickness, but hope she has ere this fully recovered her health. It must be pleasant for her that you are with her; you must be careful however of your own health, and not get sick too, by over fatigue and care.

I shall begin to be more cautious and fearful of sickness now I have had some slight experience of it myself. I believe I wrote to you something of my experience of the Fever & Ague. I became quite homesick, or at least, quite tired of Illinois, for a while; and in fact have hardly got over the feeling yet; though I hope and believe that I have fairly got rid of the Fever and Ague. The cold weather & [illegible] frosts have commenced,

and my health & strength are now very rapidly improving. My appetite has become almost enormous, and I am gaining in weight, — "filling up," quite perceptibly. There was getting to be need of it too. I was more than thirty pounds lighter than last winter!

I believe I wrote to you something of my failure, though very near succeeding, in getting the appointment of the Division Engineer of this Division. It would be the charge of some 120 miles of road. I believed I am capable of filling the Office and accomplishing its business successfully. A failure would have been dreadful: but success in it would have fairly set me up as an Engineer. The salary too, is one by no means to be despised by a poor man. It is more than I supposed. $3000.00 per annum.

However I do not repine at losing the chance. It is undoubtedly all for the best in some way. If I have not the pay and the honor, I shall not have the care & the responsibility.

As it is, though, I believe I have succeeded in gaining the confidence of Col. Mason, the Eng. in Chief, and the appointment to the charge of the Division, _ad interim_, is one of considerable honor, as well as some vexation.

The former Div. Eng. did not leave matters in very good shape, and there were many conflicting interests and bad feelings among the subordinates to be reconciled, or put aside; beside the disagreeable duty of dismissing and discharging some among them.

However I believe I am succeeding very well, and satisfying all parties, better than I had hoped.

Col. Mason and the previously appointed new Div. Engineer are

expected to be here early in November. By, or at, their arrival, too, it will probably be decided whether the Road, or any part of it, is to be put under contract at once. I shall then be favored with an opportunity to decide whether I will remain in Illinois upon this Road; and, if I stay, shall be able to learn where in what part of the State at least, and in what capacity. All of which matters you may expect to learn as soon thereafter as letters can go.

I have been at Church today, but cannot say that I like the preaching much. There are two Churches here, Methodist & Baptist; no Presbyterians I believe in the County. The preaching at both is very poor, besides being only occasional; the preachers of both are uneducated and very ignorant. However I suppose they are better than none, and try to be thankful. You enquire for the "Wellspring" & "Messe..." They are very rarely seen here. The Methodist Religious Papers have the most circulation here. I agree with your Father in being interested in Minnesota. I have many friends there; and moreover prefer to Southern Illinois, any place farther North and settled by Eastern people. There is indeed field enough for effort here, but the material seems decidedly poor to a New Englander.

You speak of the Cholera. I have had very little thought of it, ... not think it to be feared by steady, temperate men, and especially away from Cities. You suppose me "roaming over prairies". Not now. For 100 miles, nearly, of the South part of Illinois, there are no prairies; It is all "timber." Jonesboro is some 30 miles into the timber. I was three days last week, & shall be most of this week, roaming, riding about, through timber, some hills, valleys & streams too, there are in this part of the State. I have got so as to enjoy very much the riding horseback, universal here, which was entirely new to me when I came here. But I must close. Love to Father & Mother & Fanny and especially Antoinette, Sincerely A. H.

SBORO
OCT
20
Ill.

Miss Antoinette B. Putnam
Dunbarton
N. H.

Isaac   Jonesboro Union Co. Ill.

Nov. 5 1851

Jonesboro, Union Co. Illinois
Wed. Nov. 5. 1851

Dear Antoinette

Yours of Oct. 4th 8th is just received. How long the time seems it takes a letter to pass from New Hampshire here. Several times I have written lately but none of them received when you wrote. The letter you are replying to in the one just received was written long ago, when I was away up in the Prairies. The time seems longer lately. there has been so much doing here, and so many changes within three or four weeks past. I have just come in Town this fore noon. having been away since Monday, and must write in haste, as I have to leave here again in a few hours; for Cash River where my party are Locating some fifteen miles from here.

I am very glad to learn by your letter that your Mother's health is so much improving. I presume you are very happy there this beautiful Autumnal weather. How I wish I could visit you a few days. Even to call upon you one of these fine long evenings would be worth a good many days such as we have here. I believe I can write good news, or at least encouragingly of my health. Cool weather is coming on. There have been two or three frosty mornings, and I can feel

the bracing healthful effect in a high degree.
To be sure, I had a little drawback last week.
I was accidentally exposed to the rain, and got quite wet, which is very hurtful in this climate.
The consequence was a slight Chill the next day. However I easily threw it off, and am doing well.
I have an excellent appetite, and am rapidly gaining bothe in weight and in strength.
I presume it will be healthy here now for eight or nine months as any where.
I have written to you about the changes which have taken place here, and of my present temporary position. I am quite anxious and impatient to have some permanent arrangement effected, either to remain here, or leave at once, but can do nothing until Col. Mason's return here, which is delayed longer than expected.
His last letter informs me he shall be here upon the tenth inst. or soon after.
I shall write to you again as soon as he comes.

I am glad to hear that George is getting along so well.
You ask whether it seems any like New England at Mr Roots'. It does a little more than at most of the places one finds here: but still very different. Mr Roots himself has become pretty thoroughly a 'Sucker'. His wife is a New England

woman still. A very excellent woman she is too.
She was extremely kind to me while sick there.
The Sabbath services there are attended by very few
except Mr Roots' large family

I should very much indeed prefer Minnesota
to Illinois. — But — there is as yet no Rail
Road building in ~~Illinois~~ Minnesota.
I do not think I could be contented to remain
permanently in Illinois, Southern Illinois at
any rate. Minnesota I should like much.

My time is nearly out, and I must close.

Much love

Sincerely

J. S. Metcalf

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Miss Antoinette B. Putnam
Dunbarton
N. H.

Isaac, Jonesboro Union Co Ill

Dec. 1 1851

Jonesboro' Union Co. Illinois
Sabbath, Nov: 30. 1851

Dear Antoinette

Your letter of November eleventh reached me on the twentysixth, making the journey in considerable less than the usual time, and as usual gladdening my heart not a little. The same evening, by the same Mail, came also letters from Bangor, Brothers and Sisters. A very comfortable preparation for Thanksgiving, to be sure. Yet, I think, if I had not been unusually or at least extremely busy, I should have been on that day lonesome, or almost homesick. Thanksgiving is not at all observed here; in fact no one seemed to remember the day; and it is a day when, you know, a New Englander especially thinks of home and its surroundings, of relatives and friends, and more than ever longs to be with them. You must not think that I am at all inclined to be homesick or ever low spirited. I am to much occupied in business to turn to that. Constant employment I think makes any one cheerful, and I believe that I am constitutionally contented wherever or however I am. But on Thanksgiving day I am certainly apt to think of home and where there is no Thanksgiving kept, it seems quite a new and strange thing to me. I realized especially the other day my distance from home.

I am extremely glad to hear that your Father & Mother have so completely recovered their health, and hope it will continue.

You write in sight of the snow covered ground, sparkling and white. How I want to see it. Here the people are complaining bitterly of cold weather, but it is only that there are frosty mornings, and those not all the time. The weather here for a few weeks past has been much like our September and early October weather at the East, only with more of rain and clouds. There is ~~less~~ little of our clear bright autumnal weather, the finest of the year, as I think it is in New England. Perhaps a bright frosty morning, but cloudy ere night, and about half the time more or less rainy. It seems a sort of rainy season after the long dry season of the Summer & Early Fall. Still I like the weather now better than earlier in the season. The really cold rainy weather is not so unpleasant, the air seems clearer and purer, and one is not so uncomfortable under clothing that will keep one dry.

You speak of my Sabbath priveliges, and I certainly almost envy those who enjoy such as I like. Yet here in Jonesboro the priveliges of the Sabbath are probably better than the average throughout the country, certainly much better than usual in Southern Illinois.

There are two pretty tolerably good houses of worship. The principal is the Baptist. The Baptist Church member=ship is quite a large one, numbering between two and three hundred, though so scattered & living out of the village that only fifty or seventy five is a frequent audience there.

The Baptist Minister is doubtless well supported, and is probably among the best of his Sect in Southern Illinois He is an Exhorter rather than a Sermoniser, and I cannot say that I like his preaching much.
The Methodist minister I like better. He is a regular thorough going disciple of John Wesley, zealous, enthousiastic and untiring, but I presume can preach twenty sermons in a week just as well as two. He has not much Education of course, and is apparently rather Mediocre except in zeal, and in that the Methodists as a sect appear to excel. In some respects I like the Methodists much and on the whole, I think better than Baptists.
But my favorite preacher is rather a big old German "Father Krack" who preaches here once a month. He belongs to the Lutheran Church; His English is not by any means perfect, but he is a man of large intellect as well as person, and I judge well educated. His preaching is the best here.
The Methodist Circuit rider preaches here but one half the Sabbaths, Father Krack, one fourth. The Baptist preaches here all the time. Today at that Church however preached or tried to a Baptist Colporteur, he did little else however than shout, and I enjoyed it but very little.
The Sabbath services here are always at Eleven o'clock and at Candlelight, never in the Afternoon.
So I usually spend some part at least of the Afternoon very pleasantly in writing letters, either to you or to Mother

and Brothers & Sisters.

I must tell you too how I spend the week days.
I breakfast before day light, then mount my horse,
and ride off into the country from two to ten miles,
spend the day in the woods, looking out and locating
the Rail Road route, and at night ride back to town, perhaps
after dark, then spend an hour or two in R.R. Office, re-
cording the business of the day, or planning that of tomorrow.
These Southern Illinois woods are very different from ours
in New England, so heavy and thick and tall, Poplar,
and Cypress, and Gum, and Sycamore. with the Oak &
Hickory, little or no underbrush, but abundance of
Climbing vines of various kinds, some very beautiful.
Well. It is time for me to be going to Evening
meeting, and I must stop writing. with much
love and good Evening.

Sincerely
J. S. Metcalf

Isaac Jonesboro Union Co. Ill.

Nov. 24, 1851

Jonesboro, Union Co. Illinois.
Thursday, Nov. 20, 1851.

Dear Antoinette

Your letter of Oct. 28, was joyfully received two days since. I intended to write that day, but press of business prevented. Col. Mason had just arrived here, had very short time to stay; and I had considerable business to attend to and settle up. I have now been relieved of my temporary charge of the Division Engineership, after retaining its honor and dignity — or rather care and responsibility — longer than I expected, on account of Col. Mason delaying his return.
The new incumbent, L. W. Ashley has also arrived, so that I am again one under authority, though still having power, like the centurion, to say to one, "go" and he goeth, and to another 'do this' and he doeth it.
I had hoped, if I decided to remain here this winter, to be able to go East for a few weeks at least.
But in the present press of business here, I cannot get away. I have got fairly enlisted in the Location of this Division, No one can take my place, and I must stay until January at least. I told Col. Mason I would start in January then. But he told me I would get to Boston just about as soon to wait & start in March!
I suppose there is hardly any such thing as decent travelling ~~here~~ in this region when the river Navigation, and the easiest way to get East from here in the Winter is to go to New-

Orleans, and go around by Water.
So I suppose I am likely to be here for the Winter. and I cannot well help it. Perhaps it is for the best; but I tell you I am lonesome here.
If I could have got away to the East, by this time, or better a Month since, and persuaded you to come back with me, I think I could have been very well contented here, to spend the Winter at least.
But, we must make the best of it as it is.
I am somewhat troubled though in thinking of the Winter irregularity of the Mails. If letters are irregular and perhaps lost, why - we must write the more of them.
You must not be anxious about my health. The Winter, you know, is the healthy season here. I am getting strong, hearty, and fat. In a month or two more, the prospect is, I should hardly be known for the same man I was a month or two since.
Besides I have got so now that I do not fear an attack of the ague as I did. I know better how to deal with it, and could throw it off at once, on the first symptom. Still, I must say, I have such a dislike of the miserable disease that I am likely to be pretty careful to avoid it, and I presume shall have nothing more of the kind.
As you mention there is undoubtedly a great deal of suffering with the Ague, among poor people and far from a Physician. I see whole families here who are about the most miserable beings I ever saw

Still those here who are able to take proper care of their health are rarely seriously troubled.
The Sabbath day on which you wrote hoping I was not sick that day, I was really very near sick! having been exposed to rain a few days before and was threatened with an ague attack.
Last Sabbath there was a great Meeting at Jonesboro. The Sabbath Convention of Southern Illinois. I commenced on Thursday, but I was out of Town and could not be there till Sat. Eve. There were many Ministers present of many different denominations, and some were really quite superior ones; real Western orators though most of them. I was almost amused at times to hear some of them, thoroughly educated men, perhaps "raised" at the east, evidently learned, and certainly eloquent, but fully Western in their style; I suppose they feel obliged in a measure to adapt themselves to their Audience.
I enjoyed that Sabbath very much. Usually however I must say that I look towards the East considerably on that day, in spite of my habitual contentedness with the present.
It seems you had Winter when you wrote, nearly a month ago, and here there has been but comparitively little frost as yet; though to be sure the people complain bitterly of cold weather, as soon at least as nights begin to be cool.
I suppose though there will be some snow and cold weather here in course of the season.
I hope your Father's health is well established for

Your account of tracing lines in the woods was quite amusing. I can hardly say however that you ought to have acquired very great reputation as an Engineer.

As for your keeping School this Winter, of course you must exercise your own discretion, and if you really think it necessary to your enjoyment of course I shall not object, but I should think you might be full as comfortable at home.

But for advice, I must do as you do by me, say 'do as you think best.

But it is getting very late, my time is limited, and I must stop, with much love to all and especially to yourself

Sincerely J. S. Metcalf

Isaac Jonesboro Union Co. Ill.
Dec. 16 1851

Jonesboro Union Co. Illinois
Tuesday, Dec. 9. 1851

Dear Antoinette

Your kind letter of Nov. 22, is just received. I am going tomorrow morning to Cairo and that region for a week or ten days. So I will write a bit tonight, though I have little time, as it is already rather late in the evening.

Your hopes that the winter here may be one of health appear likely to be realised. It is apparently quite healthy now every where here. The miserable sallow wretched ague stricken countenances of the natives (as they seemed six or eight weeks ago) are getting to be quite tolerably healthy looking, more like those of comfortable human beings. My own health I believe is getting quite firmly established. and I really enjoy the kind of weather we have here lately very much — cool, bracing, frosty. I fear however we may not have much of it. The Winter is often only a sort of rainy season, or if snow falls, at all, it is only worse melting into this Mud in a day or two.

There has been no snow as yet, hardly to whiten the ground for a half hour. We are hoping however to get the out of door work pretty much completed for the winter within a

week or two; or at least so much that we can take our time for whatever else there is to be done.

I am truly very much obliged to you for the extract from your Sermon book. A real Congregation Sermon is valuable indeed here, I assure; and I judge your abstract of one is worth more than any I often hear here. Why, I shall get along very tolerably if I do not get a chance to go to Church next Sabbath.

I hear from Maine very regularly nowadays. My Mother's health appears to be very good. She spends the winter in Bangor, going out to Milo a few weeks in September and October only since last Spring. Sister Lucy's health they think to be rapidly improving, comparatively so that is. She has been unwell and feeble you know for a long time.

I expect I shall be late in the morning if I stop to write longer tonight.

I seem to be somehow established here now for the Winter, but you must expect to see me in New Hampshire pretty early in the Spring. I do not know but I am becoming popular with the new Division Engineer, and he may try to keep me here, if possible next season. doubtless he will, and I could do well here, perhaps far better than to go elsewhere.

What do you think about it?
Would you be willing to come out here next Spring?
It will probably depend in great measure
upon that.
You must write about it and advise me.
Love to Father & Mother
And to yourself especially
Yours [illegible]
[illegible] V. Metcalf

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ILL.

Miss Antoinette B. Putnam
Dunbarton
New Hampshire

Isaac   Jonesboro Union Co. Ill.

Jan 16 1852

Jonesboro. Union Co. Illinois
Wednesday Jan. 14. 1852

Dear Antoinette

Your kind letter of Dec. 19. I received on my arrival in Town last night. It had been here two or three days I suppose. I have been away for a week, up in the Prairies, at Mr Hawkins my last summer's home, and out to Murphysboro, Pinkneyville, and Nashville, the County Shire Towns, to obtain certain land records from the County Offices. I have got so that I enjoy riding horseback very much, even in the cold weather. The past week has been quite cold and stormy, unusually so for this Country, more snow has fallen than often in whole winters, and all the Suckers are very much curled up by the cold. But I have enjoyed it very much, it has seemed almost like New England weather, though the cold weather here would be warm for winter weather there.
I have not been up at Mr Hawkins since I left there last September, and the visit was quite pleasant. Mrs Roots called me rather a bad boy for not coming to see my "Mother" oftener. I believe she was as kind to me when sick as a Mother could be.
The prairies I find look rather dreary in winter, especially when a cold wintry wind is blowing the snow across them. Even the quails and Prairie Chickens hardly seem to enjoy it.

I am much obliged for your copy of Rail Road News.
If I were now in New England, I would perhaps try to get
a place upon that New York and Boston Air Line R. R.
Probably however there would be but little chance. There
is so little Rail Road building or surveying going on in
New England now, and so many there out of business
that there is little chance for one without personal ac=
quaintance or favor of those engaged in it.
The time for Engineering Employment in N. E. is mostly
passed. In New York State there is considerable doing now,
under the Nine Million Canal Enlargement, but Canal
Engineering I do not consider my business and do
not like it either. The present field for Railway
Engineers seems decidedly to be in the Western States
and here a great field is just opening.
Mr Ashley, our new Div. Eng. here, laughs at the idea
of remaining at the East now. I like Mr Ashley
very well. He is a regular Yankee, though he has been
four or five years in the West. Mrs Ashley is quite
a pleasant lady, an Episcopalian. They have three
little Children. If I will stay here, I can have
a very favorable situation, living at Jonesboro, have
charge of thirty miles of road through this hilly coun-
try of Union & Pulaski Counties without going into
the unhealthy region of Cairo at all. I do not
know but I had better conclude to remain here.
It certainly appears best both for my present emol-
ument, and future prospects in every way.

If so, will you consent to come and live here next Summer? Suppose I come East for a week or two early in the Spring, and you come back with me, say early in March at least? I really think we can be very comfortable here. This hilly country at and about Jonesboro is considered the healthiest part of Illinois. It certainly has been the past season. much more so than the North part of the State.

We have a Presbyterian Minister here now. Rev Mr Stewart lately of Greenville Bond Co. He is quite an able Man, perhaps I wrote something about him at the S. I. Bible Convention. He is sent here by the Presbytery {New School} as a Missionary, to build up Presbyterianism in this part of the State, and especially in Jonesboro, the most important point. I like him very well, and I presume he would like much to have me stay here. By the way, he calls this one of the healthiest places in the whole western country, and he ought to know, having always lived in these States, — is native of Ohio. his wife though is from Massachusetts, Westfield, I believe.

Last Sabbath I spent at Mt Hawkins, at Mr Roots place.

You enquire if the failure of the $15.000000 Loan will affect the progress of this Road. The failure will prevent the immediate completion of the Road, but not prevent its progress: And this Southern portion, being the most difficult part, and at the end too, will probably go on about the same any way.

You enquire how we do for Dinner in the Woods.
Sometimes we carry it, sometimes get it brought out to us, and sometimes go without.
We often have pretty good Pic Nics under those tall forest trees, and if the fare be rough, good appetites make up abundantly any deficiency.
The forests here are certainly magnificent.
They are too, much more comfortable however in the Winter than Summer, being free from Misquitoes, and various such like little pests. which often diminish one's Enjoyment quite seriously in Summer.
The Woods are full of birds here too in Winter, apparently more so than in summer; probably because then they are hidden by the very dense foliage.
There are here in Winter, Most of our N. E. Summer birds, and may unknown there, Among others a beautiful bright red bird, Cardinal Grosbeak, I judge. Also an astonishing variety of Woodpeckers.
Well, it is past Eleven. I must quit.
Much love to Father & Mother & Antoinette especially.
I hope you will write immediately on receipt of this. and what you think of Illinois as a home,

Good night

Sincerely

E. J. S.

Isaac Marseilles, Pulaski Co, Ill
Caledonia.
Feb. 4 1852

Near Marseilles, Pulaski Co. Illinois
Sabbath Feb. 1. 1852.

Dear Antoinette

It seems some time since I have received a letter from you, or in fact from any one. There are doubtless letters for me on the way, or in store for me somewhere.
The Winter here has been unusually severe, the rivers obstructed with ice, and all communication very much interrupted, much more than is usual even here in common winters.
There had been no Mail from abroad received at Jonesboro for a week or two before I left there on Monday last. And the Mail agents said they could hardly expect any for a week or two longer. Still the weather has been so very warm & pleasant the past week that I think the Mails may have arrived there, and on that account am sorry that I did not get back last night as I had expected.

I wrote to you in my last letter that I had almost finally decided to remain here this Summer. or part of the Summer, and wrote I believe how good a situation I could have here, and how comfortably and pleasantly I may be situated at Jonesboro; and inviting you to be ready to come out here with me early in the Spring.

I am now making all preparations for spending the Summer comfortably, getting my work done up well, the Line all staked out and ready for the Contractors and workmen, especially on this end of my Line fartherest from Jonesboro; so that if I have good Assistants I shall not have to visit it so often.
I came down here last Monday, and intend to remain down this way most of the time for a week or two longer. When I came down here the ground was thoroughly covered with snow and quite cold weather, as it had been all the month nearly. Since then it has turned warm and every thing looks like Spring in New England. It seems strange to a Yankee to see clear starlit nights in January too warm to freeze at all, or even harden the soft moist snow. So it has been the past week.
I have found a very pleasant and comfortable stopping place here, with Dr. Arter, a physician of very extensive practice, who has finely established himself here upon the most southern point of high ground in the State, and eight or ten miles from both Cairo & Caladonia, in which villages is most of his practice.
Dr Arter says there is no more healthy place in the world than here, and refers for illustration to his own family. And certainly I never saw a more healthy fine looking family of children than his appear. He has lived here for many years, and his children were all, as the western phrase is, "raised" here.
Did I write to you about my horse? I have bought

a horse which pleases me very much; very quick and high spirited. but if rightly treated as gentle as a lamb, though so playful that I hardly dare trust any one else to do any thing with him.

Did you ever ride horse back?

I am very fond of a good horse, and still more so since I have got to riding horseback so much. Here riding horse back is almost the only method either for business or pleasure.

I am afraid my last letter was delayed in reaching you by the hard weather, and I am extremely anxious to hear from you as soon as possible, in order to know what you think about spending the summer in Illinois. I think there can be no trouble on the score of health. In order to be sure, we have made all arrangements to be able to get away from the work, through the sickly season, of August and September, leave here entirely for a month or two, and spend the time in travelling perhaps, at the North.

I think I shall do right in deciding to remain here, but am anxious to learn your view of the matter. Business appears plainly to call upon me to remain here. I can do better to remain here, probably both for the present and the future. I can probably lay up about a thousand dollars a year above all expenses here now, at present wages. and that is not found every where for young men now adays, saying nothing of the prospect of increase of salary.

I have just now returned from Meeting, and looking at the rambling scrawl I wrote before going out I conclude it does not seem much like a Sabbath exercise. However the meeting was, I had almost said, not much better. There were three Minister present and all took part in the services, two of them preaching, as they called it. They were so ignorant, ignorant not only of books, and what is called learning; that, I know, for I have heard it, some men can preach, and preach efficaciously therefore well, without, but ignorant really of everything ignorant even of human nature, of themselves, of the bible, and I almost thought of religion. It pained me to see such blind leaders of the blind.

The Church is Baptist, very small & poor, as well as ignorant, but no doubt containing some good and spiritually wise. Some perhaps would relish no other or better preaching than that they had today.

A Sabbath spent in a place like this makes me think of Jonesboro as really quite desirable.

I have not received any letters from home for some weeks, and am anxiously expecting them.

All were well at last letters, Sister Lucy very much better than last summer.

I am hoping to hear from you very soon, as well as often. My best respect to Father & Mother and much love to yourself

Sincerely

J. S.

Isaac Jonesboro Union Co. Ill.

Feb. 9. 1852

Jonesboro, Union Co. Illinois
Sabbath, Feb. 7. 1852

Dear Antoinette

Your kind letter of Jan 3d - 10th was received by me last evening. I had been out of town all the week or I should have received it a little sooner I suppose; But our Mails here have been very irregular and very much delayed this winter. The Winter has been very unusually severe, and all travelling very much interrupted. The past week or two though has been very warm, almost as warm as Summer it has seemed to me. The frost & snow went off in a hurry the rivers are all free from ice, and the navigation un interrupted. So we may now expect regular Mails. Your last letters have been very long on the road; this last almost a whole month. Probably mine have been equally delayed. If so I fear you may have been rather impatient in waiting for them.

I wrote to you last from Marseilles, a week ago, I believe. Since then I have once almost made up my mind to start for the East at once, though the journey would be rather unpleasant at this season, with considerable staging, and some risk of detention. I am getting to be very much troubled at. We do not get get any orders as to what is to be done here this season — only that we must be 'All ready'. We may, on the one hand, be called upon any day to put the work under contract at once, and make us all busy; or on the other hand the orders may be as

suddenly to discharge all subordinates, and shut up shop for the time. So I know not what to do for myself. It is decidedly unsafe for me to leave until the matter is decided somehow. If there should come a decision to put under contract at once and I away from here, it would be a scrape of the worst sort. Or if the work is to be stopped for the summer I should not want to leave until then or till I could be ready for it. I talked with Mr Ashley about it last night, and he thinks it would hardly do to leave now; but says we may all depend upon a long vacation in the Summer whether the work goes on at once or not. From the nature of the country it has been decided not to keep the work progressing, or the Irish laborers at work through the hot season.

However we are hoping to hear very soon some decision of the Directors as to what is to be done this season. It may come any day. It is rather inconvenient to have the management & Direction of a Rail Road so far off. For a while this Winter New York has been nearly a month distant from Southern Illinois

The winter it seems has been very severe all over the country. I see in all the Newspapers accounts of extreme cold weather and great storms every where, not only in this country, but in Europe also.

It seems you have your full share upon Dunbarton hill this Winter of both cold and storm.

I think it would be quite a pleasure to me to see a real good snowdrift, one of your fifteen feet drifts for instance.

I wish I could have been at your annual Festival at Dunbarton it I should have enjoyed it very much. How comfortable those New England Winters are. How much of social pleasure and real home enjoyment, which I believe the people here know little of.

I believe I wrote to you something of the Meeting I attended last Sabbath at the Shiloh Baptist Church. to day I have fared much better: in the forenoon at the Baptist Church, where preached a Colporteur named Kelly, not much of a preacher to be sure, and with some thing of an impediment in his voice, but I presume a very good man, and I enjoyed the Sermon very well. This Evening I have heard my favorite, the good old German Lutheran Father Krack. I really like to hear his preaching very well. He preaches here though only one evening in a Month now. I believe I wrote you that there was a Presbyterian Minister here now, and a very good one too Rev. Mr. Stewart lately of Greenville Bond Co. Ill. The field of his labors however is I believe all Southern Illinois almost, and he does not seem to preach here very often. I have not seen him now for some time, as I have been out of town so much.
Next Saturday & Sabbath the Methodist Quarterly Meeting is to be held here, And I intend to be present if possible. Did you ever attend a Methodist Quarterly Meeting? I attended one once held in a Big Barn down in Maine which I thought was one of the very best meetings I ever knew of. Did you know I came very near being a Methodist once? I liked the Methodists very much at that time; and do still somewhat.

I am afraid you will hardly have patience to read my letters if I write so much, so long and so often, and so poorly besides.
I wish I could write that I would be in New Hampshire the first of March or sooner. No one can tell how much I want to go at once. The time seems so long.
Well I shall certainly go as soon as I can. and in the mean time shall keep writing letters, and hope you will do the same.
It is getting late and I must close with much love and respect to Father & Mother and yourself especially
Sincerely J. H.

Isaac Jonesboro Union Co Ill.
Feb. 23^d 1852

Jonesboro, Union Co. Illinois
Sabbath. Feb. 22. 1852

Dear Antoinette

Your Letter of Feb. 5, was received last evening. And one of an earlier date, Jan. 23^d came to hand two or three days before, and is still unreplied to. I last wrote to you I think two weeks ago today.

You suppose Early Spring comes earlier in Southern Illinois than it does among the Granite Mountains of New Hampshire. I think it does. At any rate the weather here since the last week of January has been that of Spring, as warm mostly as New England May at least. The ground looks very green already in many places, especially the Wheat fields. The buds are swelling rapidly, and some of the earlier forest trees & shrubs have already "hung all their tassels forth" yet there is very likely more cold and frost, perhaps more snow even, before the first of April. Though there has been any frost but two or three times only since the last week of Jan.

I have been in much trouble for some time, as to when I shall, or can, go East. I did think to start by about this time, but it seems I can not get away at any rate until we after we can learn the decision of the R. R. Company, as to what is to be done here this Season and how it is to be done

And we do not as yet receive any direction, though long since expected, except simply "Be in readiness".
Of course it does not do for me to leave upon any pretext. It is getting to be so late too; if the work is to go on here this season, it must be commenced before long, and it will not do for me to be absent until that time.
So I am waiting, waiting — getting really somewhat out of patience; but at the same time getting every thing in the best possible state of preparation to leave. In fact I have been hard at work all the time, and should be if ever so long. Mr Ashley tells me I must almost unavoidably wait till Summer, and rehearses the many conveniences and necessities of delay, and what he calls the impracticability of going East at this Season. But I refuse as yet to give it up, and if our "Orders" should arrive tomorrow, I should probably start on the next day. I did expect to get to New Hampshire and Maine before the first of March. If I do not get [illegible] this Spring, I shall count the days until my promised Summer vacation, I assure you.
"My Minister" preached today, Mr Stewart, the Presbyterian Clergyman of whom I wrote to you, and I had quite a treat you may be certain. He has preached here in town but a few times, having no Church, and not wishing to interfere with the regular services of the other Ministers. Today the Baptist Minister is sick and Mr Stewart has taken his place. He is really quite a preacher for this Country, and I believe is very much liked by the people here.

I have just now returned from Evening Meeting. Mr Stewart preached, and I think his discourse was even better than in the forenoon, or than I ever heard from him. His text was "To day, if ye will hear his voice &c." I was pleased to see him, with true western feeling, come down from the pulpit, and take his stand in the open space before the desk, saying he could have more liberty there: and when he got into the open space, he certainly did not lack for gesture or action, though quite dignified withal.

By the way, thinking of Oratory, I cannot tell how much I want to see & hear Kossuth. If I were at leisure I would travel five hundred miles, or give fifty dollars, just to see the man. I do regard him as not only the greatest orator, but the greatest man now living in the world. Is he not the greatest spirit of the age? And if his life is spared, destined to the greatest influence over the age & world? If so, what a blessing that he is such a Man; so different from many master spirits of other ages, for instance Napoleon Bonaparte, whose influence was so great in the beginning of this Century.

You are very right in surmising that I am proud of my State. Has not Maine done nobly? May others soon follow its example. Every letter I get from there contains something about the success and beneficial working of the Liquor Law, or as it is called "the Maine Law". I am very much hoping that Old Massachusetts will pass a similar law this winter. What is New Hampshire about to do upon the subject? I see that New York and even some of the Western States are agitating the subject. The Liquor law of this State (Illinois) is one ... That has been very much opposed however here.

You mention in your letter that you would like to know more definitely about what our situation and arrangements will be here. I have thought of that considerable, that it would be pleasant to you to know more about it, beforehand. I have thought about it, I say, & wished to write all I could to you, but could think of nothing definite as a conclusion. It is decided, I suppose that if I stay here, my headquarters are to be in Jonesboro, but how I am to be situated must depend almost entirely upon the decision by the R. R. Co. about this part of the Road, when, how fast, and in what manner, the work is to be done. Perhaps it will be best to "Board" at first. (We could have quite a comfortable place here, where I now board;) though I have altogether too fond an idea of "My own fireside" to prefer that as a permanent arrangement.

However, all that matter and every thing connected with it, must be left almost or quite entirely to you. An Engineer's wife must necessarily be the active manager of every thing related to household concerns. So as for arrangements you can & must make them to suit yourself.

Engineer's arrangements are however, you know, at the best, only temporary, and often obliged to live, and be contented to live almost any how, especially at the west.

Well it is time this letter was finished.

I shall write as soon as I have any news to write about our business, and if there is news of importance, try at least to come myself and bring it. At any rate write often and hope you will do the same. With much love to Father & Mother, and especially to yourself

Sincerely

M. S.

Jonesboro Jonesboro Union Co. Ill.
March 15 1852

Jonesboro, Union Co. Illinois
March 14. 1852

Dear Antoinette

This is a beautiful, very beautiful Sabbath Morning. It is a real Spring Morning. Such an one as can be expected in New Hampshire or Maine sometime in May, perhaps hardly till towards the last of the Month though! As I sit here I look from my Window and see — on one side to be sure the old rusty Court house and the Public Square ancle-deep with mud from yesterday's rain — but on the other a garden with long rows of vegetables bursting from the Earth, various shrubbery in full leaf, bright grass plats &c; in the distance on the one side a mighty forest whose grand old trees stretch their giant limbs against the rising sun, some of them even beginning to glow with the hues of Spring; on the other side stretch away broad bright Wheat fields already almost waving in the breeze. Does not even that description give you an idea of Spring? one quite different from that of March in New Hampshire. You will think my window must be a very pleasant one. So indeed it would be, if what I have described were all; but in fact, all that is only seen in glimpses through among & over the various dirty dingy looking, unpainted buildings, some of logs half hewed, some of warped & twisted boards, some with big ill looking old chimneys on the outside, and some without: but I believe all decidedly ill looking and disorderly.

Your good letter of Feb. 27. came safely to hand last evening and a little one of Feb. 21, a day or two before; two letters for me too in one week, and much it pleased me too.

I thank you heartily for endeavoring to comfort 'Engineers on Central Rail Roads', in their manifold troubles and trials of patience. The clouds 'beautifully tinged with sunshine' are certainly encouraging.

Your reading Circle must be, as I can very well perceive very interesting, and very profitable, if the Readings are well selected, which I judge from the examples you gave, they probably are.

The Methodist Circuit preacher Mr Rogers preached this forenoon, and really very well, upon "the Way, the truth & the life". Mr Rogers Sermons are really very good, methodically & argumentatively arranged for one who preaches without notes; but are very much injured by his slow, hesitating and imperfect delivery. His sermons are intrinsically very much superior to those of the late fluent Baptist preacher here, who is so much admired by most of the people.

You enquire when and where I was near being a Methodist, and what prevented.

It was ten years ago. In the winter of 1841-2 I was teaching school in the little Town of Brownville, Piscataquis Co. Maine. It was there that, as I hope, I first submitted my heart to Christ. There was a small Congregational Church there, but the Revival I think commenced among the Methodists There was the best feeling between the two denominations Meetings were frequently at least Alternate, and all at-

tended each. Those Methodist Meetings were interesting indeed, full of zeal & love. My prejudices had all been the other way; but I did love those Methodists. [illegible] Brownville early in the Spring, and spent the Summer in Exeter Maine. There was then no Congregational Church in Exeter. Mr Cutler, John Cutler, with whom I lived, an hereditary friend of our family, from Royalston Mass. and a noble specimen of a man, was a Methodist, a real old fashioned Wesleyan Methodist. Exeter was a great Stronghold of the Methodists. Their preachers there, I remember with admiration. They were Mighty men, men of strong frames and strong minds, with great warm hearts, bold and full of zeal. I certainly came very near being a Methodist. Let me do the Methodists justice. I did not perceive there among them, nor have I elsewhere or since, perceived, among them, as I certainly think I have among Baptists an unworthy spirit of proselytism (if it be a proper word) from other denominations. Their proselyting is from the ranks of sin & sinners, from the camps of the Enemy not from those of their Allies. That, would at that time, I believe, have most effectually turned me from them. I remember, when, my Congregational friends I suppose thinking I was about to become a Methodist, a certain Cong. Minister took me in hand in a proselyting spirit to argue certain doctrines &c. I know *he* almost made me a Methodist at once!

I became a Congregationalist I believe simply and solely upon the question of Church Government. I should perhaps as readily have become a Methodist as even a Presbyterian. I certainly did not then, perhaps do hardly still, though my metaphysical perceptions on those points have been very much strengthened & enforced, & my own opinions

very much confirmed, since then, by many, almost night long discussions & disquisitions with a certain Methodist College friend & sometime Chum of mine (Such arguments you know almost always have a powerful effect in confirming & strengthening one's own views & tenets upon any subject) I did not then, do hardly yet perceive the necessary vital, essential, difference in the creed of these denominations. The most zealous Arminian will allow the absolute perfect infinity of God. The most rigid Calvinist calls man a free agent. And so I am willing to let the matter rest between them.

By the way there seems to be a little too much hard feeling between the Presbyterians & Congregationalists just now, originating partly perhaps in some spirit of proselyting in this great Western field.

Well, it is time for me to stop writing.

My health is good. My work abundant but pleasant. It appears pretty certain that the work here is going on vigorously this summer. All are busy as possible making every preparation, and no one can get away now.

How early I shall be able to get away next Summer I cannot yet tell.

With much love

Sincerely

J. L.

Isaac Jonesboro Union Co Ill
April 5 1852

X

Jonesboro, Union Co. Illinois
Sabbath Afternoon April 4. 1852

Dear Antoinette

I do not know but you will think it strange to see my letters usually dated on the Sabbath. I have usually but very little time to spare from business upon other days, especially as I finish entirely upon week days many kinds of business that other Engineers habitually perform on the Sabbath. Then there is no such thing in this country as a Afternoon Meeting. Services are universally at 11 A M and in the Evening. So the Afternoon is ~~com monly~~ spent by all classes, (members of the Churches as well as others in walking or riding about, visiting &c. Even the Clergymen do the same, at any rate, keep open house on Sabbath Afternoon, and invite any one to call at that time specially. My New England habits & feelings (prejudices they would be called here, do not exactly permit this though I am probably entirely alone in the whole region in uniformly refusing all invitations to walk, ride, or visit, on the Sabbath. So you see I am quite a Solitary, and have a long Sabbath Afternoon every week, entirely to myself, and a very fine time it is to read or to write letters to Mother, brothers, Sisters, and you.

Your letter of March 13. was joyfully received on Apr. 1. with at the same time letters from Bangor, Mother, brothers & Sisters. I have been a good deal troubled for a week past having

heard by letter a week since that my Youngest brother, who has been the past winter at School at East Hampton Mass, was quite sick. A letter received yesterday relieved my mind very much. He has gone to Dr Munde's Water Cure Establishment at NorthHampton, had got better, and was about returning to Bangor. I was the more alarmed about it as his disease was occasioned by an injury something like that which ~~produced~~ dear Joseph's disease. I perhaps wrote to you about his getting hurt last winter a year ago. I suppose it likely that he saved the lives of a couple of girls by throwing himself against a runaway horse which tried to jump over the sleigh in which he and the girls were riding. The force of the blow was so great as to crush into fragments the sleigh even though the horse himself did not touch it at all, being fairly crowded aside by my brother's shoulders. His back was hurt however, and he has been lame ever since until a few weeks ago he was attacked with violent pain in the back & acute inflammation of the kidneys, occasioned the doctors say by the same injury a year since. I hope now, this being thrown off, that he may experience no farther ill from it.

We have at last received the long expected action of our Ill. Central R.R. Co. They have been long delayed by difficulties in obtaining the title to the lands granted them by Government, difficulties at the Land Office which I hardly understand, and which matters were not finally settled till sometime in March. The Orders have just reached us two or three days since. On account of the delay bringing it later in the season, the work in the North part of the State is to be started before this

Southern Division. Three hundred miles of the Road is already (March 25) advertized for Contracts. But this Division, by the new arrangement is not to be put under Contract until the Last of May, and then I think it most probable that there will really be but little work accomplished until the heat of Summer is past, till about September perhaps.

So we are not likely to be over hurried with business, although there is considerable work laid out for us to do for a while now. I cannot tell yet when I shall be able to go East though. Perhaps in a month or so, maybe even less. It appears very probable that I may be wanted to go up into the Northern part of the State this Summer, as that work is going on first. But I shall not probably know until Col. Mason gets around. I shall hardly want to leave here where I have spent so much effort to try to have my work comfortably arranged and to suit me. Still, it would hardly do to refuse, if I am offered a better situation there, However I may not have the Chance. They may decide I shall be wanted here eventually. Well - I will keep you advised of whatever does happen, and of the probabilities of the future as fast as I do learn what they are.

We have had quite a spell of Cold Weather here, unusual people call it. Vegetation has not seemed to advance hardly at all in weeks. In fact I think March has been colder than February was, and the season is now considered quite backward.

Flowers are abundant though in the woods as N.E. May or June.

JONESBOROUGH

Miss Antoinette B. Putnam
Dunbarton
N. H.

Isaac Jonesboro Union Co
Illinois
April 19 1852

Jonesboro, Union Co. Illinois
Sabbath Eve. April 18. 1852

Dear Antoinette

It is just ten o clock P.M. I have just returned from meeting, which was quite unusually protracted to night. But I think I must write a bit of a letter to you before I go to sleep. Sabbath day you know is my day to write letters, to you and my Mother. And if I do not do it tonight, I might neglect in among the business of the week.
The Methodists have had a Sabbath School Convention here in Jonesboro today, commenced on Friday last. There were an abundance of their preachers, both local and itinerant from all this part of the State present here. Some of them preach pretty well, and some of them call for some slight exercise of Charity I think. The one who preached this evening, A Tailor from Nottingham England, a Local preacher at Marion in this State, I liked pretty well. [illegible] without advantages of early education, he is evidently a Student, [illegible] a hard Student, and being young, I consider really promising. One very serious fault though he had tonight he tried to speak too long, it seemed almost two hours, and was certainly an hour too long!
I have heard three Sermons preached today which is something quite unusual here, besides attending Love feast, and hearing various Speeches and exhortations from the different preachers and others, who had been present

Your letter of March 27 was gladly received a day or two since. It was longer on the way than usual. Some letters have been only about 10 days on the road. For a week or two past the mails have been very irregular, and in all last week we had but one Eastern Mail I think.

You write of having another winter in March. It has been about so here. Warm weather came on the last of January. February I think was warmer than I ever knew April at the East: it seemed most like May. Vegetation seemed to starting very rapidly. But about the first of March Winter seemed to come again about a winter fit for this climate, Cold, wind, rain, and frost. Vegetation seemed to stop and stand still almost for six weeks. Some early leaves which had been coming out fell off and others have been from then until now in getting fairly out; so with the blossoms of the fruit trees &c. &c.

It has seemed very strange. I suppose vegetation always starts very slowly here compared with the North where every plant and tree seems to realize that its season is short. Some Spring flowers which are common to both climates, and which at the North are in blossom as soon as the snow is fairly off are here hardly out now where there has been no snow for almost three months. I suppose the plants have just such a time to perfect themselves, forming their roots &c. and come out at about the same time of year in all climates.

I am glad to hear that your Reading Circle prospers so well. I think it must be quite useful as well as agreeable.

Progress in the Nineteenth Century I have not read, but want to.

I was never so destitute of books, or of the possibility of getting books as since I have been out here. In fact I have read less since out here than I think ever before. I brought no books with me, and there are none to be got at here. If I ever get to the East again, or where there are books, I will not come back I think without a supply laid in.

I do think now that I shall go east next month, in May. I am by no means hurried with work now, and feel rather bad that I cannot get away, but cannot leave here very well till Col. Mason comes here which will be early in May.

The work on this Division is to be let the last of May, and there will be little to do here except what we are fast doing up until after that time. So I think I can go then. But I must remain and see Col Mason. There is some talk of putting me in charge of a Division up in the Prairies toward the North part of the State, Champaign Co. perhaps. and I am obliged to wait & see him. I hardly wish really to make the change, although a promotion and increase of Salary I suppose. I have got things so well arranged here, and every thing is so good order for a comfortable season, on this work, in which moreover is greater chance for improvement as an engineer, than upon the Prairie country at the North. Besides, the Country there is even worse than this. This the "Land of Egypt", as they call Southern Illinois, is almost a barbarous

country, only about half civilized at any rate. But at the North is almost a desert; — No not a desert for I suppose it is one of the most fertile regions on the globe: but there is a region there almost entirely unopened: the rail road will make it easily accessible for the first time. There is said to be more than sixty miles there in one stretch, where the Rail Road line does not pass the shadow of a tree! And about twenty miles in one place without a house!

What do you think of that?

Did I write you that brother Eleazer was sick? He is better, and I suppose at Bangor, but I have not heard from him since he arrived there. I have been anxiously expecting a letter for a week past from him.

Well it is getting late, I must bring this unwieldly letter to a close.

With much of love to you and yours,

Sincerely

N. H.

Miss Fr[illegible] [illegible]

Isaac ? Jonesboro Union Co
Illinois
April 26 1852

Jonesboro Union Co. Illinois
Sabbath, April 25. 1852

Dear Antoinette

Your letter of April 18 came to hand yesterday, and at the same time six letters mailed in March, from friends both in Maine & Minnesota.

You enquire if Boston was not my native place. I was born in Royalston, Worcester County Mass. which was also my Father's native place, and where he always owned property, a house and farm at least, which were sold after his death. Before his death I had lived part of the time in Royalston and part of the time in Boston. But after his death, and before I was ten years old, my mother and family moved away into Maine, where my oldest brother had already established himself.

Your Fast Day Sermon must have been quite an interesting one I think. We have upon this Rail Road several Engineers who are political refugees from Europe. Their histories of '48 & '50, and their hopes and aspirations for the future of their Countries are quite interesting. They are of the class of men, young men, who were active and the leaders of Europe in 1848. One is a young Pole, who served as a huzzar Officer in Hungary. Another is a Prussian, who was in Government service as R.R. Engineer, but was one of the leaders of popular revolution in Berlin in '48.

They are ardent Enthusiasts in the cause of Liberty. but, like most perhaps of their fellows too far from the earnest religious faith of Kossuth.

Young Europe, as it is sometimes called, is, I fear, now too much in religion and morality like the French of the Old French Revolution. It is quite natural however, especially for Young Men like the German Revolutionists. They have got their eyes fully open to the giant wrongs and almost unnumbered abuses of their present systems, both civil and religious, and are very liable in their enthusiasm to endeavor to tear down every time worn institution and rusty bulwark which they fancy in the way of their proposed developement. It cannot be expected that all would see as clearly as Kossuth does, that the true unalloyed religion of Jesus Christ is and must, necessarily be ever on the side of true Liberty and human right.

I have a great enthusiasm for Kossuth. My admiration of him I believe, has no drawback. Eljen Kossuth!

You have doubtless heard the new word so common in politics lately — "Old Fogies". I could not help thinking of it during sermon this forenoon. The very large Baptist Church here is very much divided. One large portion, I do not know but a Majority, are almost of the old "Regular" Stripe. What they call among the Baptists in this Country, 'Regulars' or 'Iron Sides', are noted by their Turkish belief on the question of Election, and their most bitter opposition to Temperance and every species of Missionary Effort or Reform. But their Minister

who came here last fall, his predecessor being obliged to leave because he joined the Sons of Temperance) is a young man of the progressive kind in respect to Temperance Missions, Sabbath Schools &c. with considerable talent & Energy, and disposition to use them.

This forenoon he certainly carried the war into the very camp of the "Old Fogies", on temperance and Missions, in an extremely venturesome manner for a man in his situation.

Intemperance has been until a year or two almost universal in this region; and among Church Members & even Ministers too as well as elsewhere. Here in Jonesboro, Minister have but a few years ago stopped at the Grocery for a Dram, both on the way to and from Meeting on the Sabbath!

My beautiful horse is dead. I care much more than his worth. I really loved the fellow. He too loved me so well. It was really affecting to see him in his [illegible] follow me around to lean his head against my shoulder, and even as he lay on the ground he would reach his head round to get it against me.

I suppose he was poisoned by accidentally eating among his feed of grain at Murphysboro a few days since, a few "Castor Beans", seeds of the Castor oil plant, which are raised here, and which are supposed extremely fatal to horses. He was as well as ever and as full of life & spirit as his skin could hold, last Wednesday morning at Murphysboro. He was taken sick before I got back here, suffered very much, and died the next Afternoon.

My Colt was one of excellent qualities and much promise; and I believe I should as lief have lost a hundred dollars in almost any other way.

The people of Jonesboro are re-awaking upon the subject of Temperance just now. And well they may, for if nothing is done to prevent, with their present laws & prospective circumstances, they would while this Rail Road is building almost fall back into their old State. They are just forming a Division of the Sons of Temperance here, and making some effort to stop and save some of the young men who are so much in danger. I believe I have and have had some influence for good in the Temperance Cause here since I have been here

If my letters are not worth much, you must agree that they are written pretty often. So I will stop for now.

Love to all

Sincerely

W. S. Kelaufr

Isaac Jonesboro Union Co
May 10 1852

Jonesboro, Union Co. Illinois
Sabbath, May 9. 1852

Dear Antoinette

It seems some time since I have received a letter from you. Perhaps there has been a Mail lost with letters for me. The Mails have been very irregular lately, occasioned, I suppose, by heavy rains and high water. The Eastern News papers for one week we have failed entirely of receiving. Last Sunday night and Monday Morning was the greatest storm I ever saw. I believe there is never any thing like it in New England. It was really almost dreadfully magnificent. There seemed to be one continued rolling peal of thunder, and one constant uninterrupted flash of lightning, and such torrents of rain! There was considerable damage done, as once before this Spring, by the washing away of fences, destruction of roads, bridges and crops. In some places considerable injury was done to cattle and crops by hail. A few miles from here one man was drowned in trying to ford a bit of brook near his house. This Afternoon it has rained about in the same way though without the thunder and lightning. Our old German Lutheran Father Knack preached today, and a most excellent sermon too, up the first four verses of 1 Cor. 10.

It was really one of the ablest sermons I have heard since I have been out here, perhaps though slightly clouded in parts by some German Mystical Metaphysics. Not that I think the old gentleman intends to preach any thing but Christ & him crucified, (which he certainly does most plainly and thoroughly), but then he very naturally *thinks* in *German*.

This evening there is no meeting in Town on account of the great Rain.

We have lately got started here a New Morning Sabbath School: Union of all Denominations, Bap. Meth. and German. I have taken charge of a Bible Class of Young Men, with the Understanding that when I am absent the Baptist Minister shall take my place. The school bids fair to become quite interesting. It has only now been in operation two weeks.

I wish you could be here now to witness the beauty of the vegetation and the forest scenery at the present time. There is certainly a richness and fullness, a magnificence in the foliage here which is unknown farther North. I never saw any thing which could compare with the forests here now. The Redbud and the Crab Apple have done flowering; but the flowering Dogwood, and the Viburnums are still in their beauty, and form a most admirable Substratum of White beneath the massive piles of green foliage of the more towering trees. The Tulip Tree, Poplar they call it here, is one of the most common through this region, and is certainly one of the

most Magnificent of trees. I do not know as I ever saw its Equal. The Liquidambar, or Sweet Gum is also a most splendid tree.
This is certainly one of the most beautiful Countries in the world. I can now appreeciate its beauties much better than I could last fall, when writhing under the ague, which I believe makes everything appear bad and missrable. I never saw so beautiful an uncultivated country as this now is, among these hills, such a wealth and exuberance of vegetation, so great a variety of surface & scenery.
I was visiting some romantic places last week near our R.R. line; the Drury Creek Valley, a gorge among the sandstone hills, through which our Road is to pass. Some times the hills rising up immediately on either side one or two hundred feet, then again spreading out into little flowery valleys, with the brook branches coming down on either side through little narrow gorges in the sandstone Cliffs, which rise on either side perhaps 20, 50, or 100 feet, perpendicular, or overhanging, full to of little caves and crevices and Water Springs, and the flowers, flowers every where. among the fine old trees.
We have found too subject of interest for Antiquarian as well as Botanist & Geologist in the same Region; the remains of an old fortification on one of the hill points running out into Drury Valley. The point Extending into the valley is a Cliff, perpendicular or overhanging, for twenty to fifty ft. high. the top smooth & level, inaccessible except by a narrow neck, across which are the remains of a massive Stone wall-

It is of great antiquity, but like no work of the Indians. I am inclined to think it was built by the Spanish Expedition under De Soto, more than three hundred years since. They might have stopped there, searching among these hills for precious metals, and warring with the Indians. There are also appearances of ancient mining in this region.

The Spring is a beautiful season in this Climate. You know perhaps I have never shared much in the enthusiasm of admiring the Spring as it is in New England, preferring the Autumn or even Winter of N. E. to the Spring. But here I give it up. I have never seen so delightful weather as the Spring of Southern Illinois. It is not so bracing and enlivening as our N. E. Autumn, which I have always thought the finest weather in the world. but there is a purity & beauty in the atmosphere here. I think it must be like the Climate of Italy, where it is said one wants no other enjoyment than to breathe out of doors. In N. E. ^autumn the enjoyment is in life & activity, here in quiet laziness in the serene atmosphere.

You must not think from this that I have yet become quite a Sucker. I believe there is still some old New England life & feeling left in me.

With much love to all and yourself particularly And hoping to hear from you very soon

Sincerely

J. J. Wilson

Isaac : Jonesboro Union Co
Illinois
May 28 1852

Jonesboro Union Co. Illinois
May 28 1852

Dear Antoinette

Your letter of May 13 was received with much pleasure on yesterday.

I shall not attempt to write a letter today, as I am just leaving here for Down East.

We are not likely to do much here for some time, probably till near Fall. I am pretty well tired of remaining here idle, and think I can enjoy myself better elsewhere And as I have finished up every thing I have to do until the Grading commences, I am expecting that my Salary will go on just the same while I am absent, as if I were here all the time.

But do not be expecting me as soon as you get this letter. I have got a freak in my mind to travel part of the way, over ~~through~~ Indiana on horseback, which, you know is slow compared with Rail Ways & Steamboats. I have got a fine horse all ready, and shall start in half an hour!

I will write to you probably on the way, and may not reach New England

until near the first of July.
I expect to enjoy the ride across the country at this season very much.
Being in haste, I must stop writing.
With much love & best wishes.
Sincerely
J. S. Metcalf

Isaac. Columbus
Bartholomew Co.
Indiana

June 7 1852

Columbus [illegible] Co. Ind.
[illegible] June 6 1852

Dear [illegible]

I [illegible] a hasty [illegible] [illegible] as I started [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] the last. So you will not be surprised to [illegible] of me [illegible] [illegible] [illegible].

I [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] [illegible], [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] [illegible], [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] enjoyment of [illegible]. [illegible] [illegible] I met [illegible] [illegible]. [illegible] [illegible] started [illegible] [illegible] a [illegible] one, was [illegible] [illegible] in the road, [illegible] [illegible] distemper it is [illegible]. I was [illegible] said I [illegible] [illegible] him, and [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] bear [illegible] in the [illegible] place [illegible] [illegible]. [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] "[illegible]", and [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] home [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] [illegible], [illegible], and [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] away [illegible] [illegible] kind of riding.

I have [illegible] [illegible] Brown, [illegible], Franklin, Hamilton & [illegible] Counties, [illegible] [illegible] Posey, Gibson, Pike, Daviess, [illegible], Lawrence, Jackson, Brown, Bartholomew in this state. The first Sabbath I [illegible] at Carmi, White Co., Ill. and heard [illegible] a [illegible] and a [illegible] preach four [illegible] in the [illegible] [illegible] [illegible]. This morning I [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] [illegible]! [illegible] [illegible]

Columbus), [illegible] for the first time [illegible] nearly a year [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] [illegible]. Only think [illegible] [illegible]. You can [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] [illegible]. [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] bell [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] Springfield [illegible]. The [illegible] k before [illegible] Chicago, [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] that [illegible] [illegible] ~~Illinois~~ New York.

[illegible] [illegible] [illegible] the Presbyterian minister [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] preach this [illegible], is a very fine portly looking [illegible]man, would [illegible] very well for a City D.D. [illegible] most any where. He preached very well too, he is an Eastern man, though [illegible] he [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] "[illegible]" lands about Sodom [illegible] Lot was so well [illegible] [illegible]. His text was [illegible] [illegible] of Abraham & Lot, and Lot's choice of the Plain [illegible] Jordan. By the way, though, I thought, considering [illegible] [illegible], Columbus now has that he ought to have [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] in his ad[illegible] [illegible] [illegible], [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] found in Sodom. Columbus [illegible] established the character of a "hard place". I believe. There was a most brutal unpro[illegible] [illegible] murder here not long since by a gang of miscreants [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] here.

[illegible] [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] Sulphur Springs in [illegible] Co. [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] the Largest Mineral Springs in the world. The [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] is almost a Mill stream. Their medicinal qualities are highly recommended, and they have several [illegible] visitors every [illegible].

[illegible] [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] did me good! [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] &c.

[illegible] came through New Harmony on the Wabash, where the famous [illegible] Rapp, [illegible] settled [illegible] [illegible] [illegible]. You have [illegible] read [illegible] [illegible]. The [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] their buildings, in the beautiful fields, and good roads, which they planned and built. [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] remarkable man. The [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] Economy is reckoned by Millions [illegible].

The Country [illegible] [illegible] come through in this State is [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] [illegible], and [illegible] in wealth & population very rapidly [illegible]. [illegible] The River though is a very sickly country. In [illegible] places there is even the horrible Milk Sickness [illegible] which is most to be dreaded of all diseases.

I believe I shall keep on in my [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] a while longer, over into Ohio at least. I enjoy it very much so far. So I can hardly tell [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] [illegible]!

[illegible] [illegible] [illegible].

[illegible]

J. H. [illegible]

COLUMBUS Ind.

Messrs [illegible] J. Putnam

Dunbarton

N.H.

Isaac Columbus Bartholomew Co.
Indiana
Cincinnati Ohio
June 19 1852

[illegible] Indiana, [illegible] June [illegible] 1852

[illegible]

[illegible] ago from [illegible] is came [illegible].
[illegible] about fifteen Miles from [illegible], and [illegible] last night.
[illegible] Monday Morning, June 7, I was taken sick. I [illegible] a little village, called Hartsville, in the North East Corner of this County, about fifteen miles from here, and [illegible] Country tavern, [illegible] on my back, for [illegible] ten days! It [illegible] only day before yesterday that I got [illegible] Yesterday I got a man to bring me [illegible] here in a carriage, and today I [illegible] I am about as well as common, [illegible] stout.

You may imagine that I had need of all my "patience, philosophy and other [illegible]

[illegible]

[illegible]

[illegible] enough [illegible]

[illegible] Then [illegible]

[illegible] (paid [illegible])

[illegible], and [illegible] Doctor [illegible] found

[illegible] and kind man.

[illegible] only the [illegible]

very bad. [illegible]

[illegible] days [illegible] bed

[illegible] twenty dollars. [illegible]

[illegible] really suffer'd pain, and [illegible]

how to prize exemptions from it in future.

As you may suppose I am not much inclined

to [illegible] back riding again at [illegible].

I sold my horse and [illegible] at [illegible].

and came back here.

I intend to go to Madison by the Madison &

Indianapolis R.R. which passes through this

place, this afternoon. From thence the Steam-

boats, which run in connection with the Cars

will take me to Cincinnati in twelve hours.

I [illegible] to stop in Cincinnati over the

[illegible]. And [illegible] could be

[illegible] in [illegible] in a day or two days.

However [illegible] at Westfield

[illegible] the first of July. I suppose she would

[illegible] me to go [illegible] here.

[illegible] may [illegible]

[illegible] you [illegible], and I have [illegible]

[illegible] 1st.

[illegible] [illegible]

[illegible], [illegible] from Illinois.

Yours,

J. H. C.

Big Muddy Store
April 1st '53
12 M.

Dearest Ettie

I have just this minute received a note from Col. R.R. Mason who is at Jonesboro, and wishes me to be there as soon as possible I suppose I must go right down from here this afternoon. and probably shall not be at home till some time next week.
This is a hard fate but cannot well be avoided.
Mr Mason will probably not be here for a month or more.
Mr Ashley's Children are very sick with the Measles. When this Messenger left it was thought that John would not live.
I shall probably remain with Col Mason till Monday night or Tuesday.
So do not expect me till I come for it may be longer.
Do take special care of my Ettie while I am gone. Get Lizzie or Miss Paine to sleep with you &c.
I am in haste, Aff. [illegible]

P.S. It might be well for you if convenient to go down to the Office and bring up to the house & keep safely those vouchers & valuable papers which you will find in my desk & on right hand side.

Mr Holt will want *nothing* from them in my absence

J. F.

Isaac — April 1/63

[illegible]

ae N. York. May 30 - 1854
Ansr June 2 - 1854

Astor House N. Y. May 30th

Dearest Ettie

I believe I promised to write sometime. This is my first stop.
In haste now.
Unpleasant time aboard Bangor Boat
Awful Crowd; about the worst looking set of "humans" I ever fell among. About half of them — yes, 2/3 I should think, were simply going up to Boston for a drink of Whiskey. No state rooms either; so one is necessarily in the crowd.
When you go, go any way but on a Boston Boat without securing at least a good state Room long before hand — And then carry yr own provisions without there is improvement since I was there
There was hardly room even to stand up any where on the boat.
Arrived at Boston near Nine A. M.
Here to night tired & dirty: but in good health & spirits — Take care of my Ettie & Baby.
Most affectionately J. S.

Enclosed is a present you may make
to Eliab — or Samuel & Eliab

Isaac. Niagara Falls June 1. 1854
Bangor Maine June 6. 1854

Niagara Falls. June 1st '54

My Dearest Ettie

I mailed a letter to you yesterday from New York City. But, as I have a little leisure believe I will write again this afternoon. I seem to have luck for travelling o'nights. I could not get ready to leave New York in time for Morning trains yesterday as they leave early, and I must be there somewhat in business hours. So I finished my business in forenoon; & P.M. went up to Crystal Palace. But it was only an aggravation, as it were. One seems to want weeks days if not weeks, instead of hours; and the paltry hour or so I could spend was hardly time enough to walk round it all. I ought at any rate to spend a day or two in the Machinery department. I left N.Y. City at 6 P.M. yesterday 31st ult. riding all night, frosty night it was too through New York. There was no fire in the cars, & I almost needed my cloak. Our train was late, did not arrive in time for the Morning trains westward, so I am obliged to wait over again today; and ride all night again tonight through Canada by Great Western R.R. Niagara Falls to Detroit. We did not reach Buffalo until near 11 this Morning; 2 or 3 hours there, and the rest of the day here. And the place is rather a matter of indifference today. I do not care so much for sight seeing without Ettie!
The letter I mailed yesterday contained a Receipt for Hunt's Merchants Magazine for you to give to [illegible].
I mailed a Package by Express to Thurber & Metcalf Bangor Pre Paid, and intended for you —

It contained all the missing & back numbers of Putnam's Monthly; which you want to preserve carefully with the rest that we may have them bound sometime.
Also a copy of "Euthanasia". Look it over, & see how you like it. (I guess you have not seen it before) and give it to "our Mother" from Ettie & F. S."
Or if you like it well enough, go to Durens or some where, and get more of it and present to other parents or to any body else you like. I suppose it is slightly an Unitarian book, or at any rate an Unitarian Author. But still it may be good. I believe every body spoke well of it when it first came out a year or two or three years since. Mr. Rowley was reading it two or three mo since & he liked it hugely. I believe there were also one or two other books in the package, which you can give away or keep as you happen to please.
I bought, intending for Mr Rowley a copy of Longfellow 2 vols, very similar to that of Maria's — cost $ 3.00 Will it do, or shall I get something else. I could find nothing of Hawthorne's to suit I thought. I did think a little of Bryant, which perhaps I sent to Bangor.
Perhaps I have written about enough for this time. Take good care of Ettie — not let her get tired. Sarah must do the work. Write me all the news from every where, especially from N. H. which you know I might not get otherwise. Have Sabra take good care of Little Mayo. I keep being afraid he will fall out of bed! or that something will happen to him; when I am not there to see. I intended to buy some little books of some kind for the Children at Mill & Brownville. Ought it not to? Can not you do something of the kind; perhaps see what would do best when you are there consult with Mother, (a few dollars worth) & send them) Most Affectionately F. S.

Isaac - St Louis June 4. 1854 -
Bangor June 12 - 1854 -

[illegible] Hotel, St Louis, Missouri
Sabbath, June 4 1854

My Dearest Ellen

[illegible] perhaps be able to read this letter only scrawled in pencil. as I have no ink & it is some trouble to get it on Sunday. I arrived here last night (before dark) very safe & comfortable, and really not ^feeling^ much fatigued; though I had been in the cars three nights in succession. I wrote to you from Buffalo or Niagaria, where failing to connect, train being delayed behind time; I was obliged to stay one day. That was Thursday June 1st.
That night I went from there across through Canada West by the Great Western R.R. 256 miles to Detroit. Broad Gauge, & very comfortable cars, but too crowded to give much chance to sleep at all. I rode the night before. At Detroit we got breakfast while crossing the river on the Ferry Boat, and go right on 400 or 500 Passengers, reach Chicago at 10 P.M. I was late that I did not have ticket, & so went right on that night by Night Express to LaSalle, by 5 A.M. There telegraphed back to [illegible] & Calhoun; and came right on to St Louis same day.
Slept very well last night till 9 o'clock a clock or after this morning; and today feel first rate, though I did get asleep in Church this forenoon; though that might be only because the Text did not preach. The Preacher was

Did you read in [illegible] the last [illegible]

of *Lady Lee's Widowhood*?

You remember it do you not?

Did you read the book?

of Immediate Weight. A Rev Mr Hale of Springfield Ill.. Elderly man & tolerable preacher.
I hardly know yet how I shall get out into Maine. Perhaps take Steamboat & go up Muddy; or get across to Little Muddy by some team.
Mr Post of Rowley Smith & Co. is here; has just been with his wife & children as far as Chicago on their way back. Mr Rowley is out at Little Muddy, Smith at Big Muddy. It has been very rainy in this country Since we left. One great rain, May 13 or thereabout did damage on 2 Dist. seven
I have just been thinking how far I have got away from my Ellie this one week. Only last Monday – how long it seems – I was with you
Tuesday at Boston 250 miles
Wed " N.Y. 235 " 486
Thurs " Buffalo 423 " 909 Niagara 24 = 933
Friday " Detroit 229 " 1162
Night " Chicago 276 " 1440
Sunday " St Louis 316 " 1756. Miles – Oh dear!
What a distance – less than 90 hours travel though in apparency but about 72 hours in reality.
But it does seem a great way; & a great while before it will be [illegible]. Well Ellie, we must not fret ourselves. It shall not be longer than we can help should
If you & the dear Little ones can only have good health & all the house – I will not mind it
Take care of yourselves. Affectionately

[illegible] [illegible] June 11, 1854.
Bangor, June 21, 1854.

[illegible]

Du Quoin Perry County, Illinois
Sabbath Afternoon, June 11, 1854

My Dearest Ettie

Here I am in our old room, looking some-what as it used to — except a certain sort of bareness, — which I may possibly get used to; but which appears at present not to suit me very well. Our Bed is here the same, and the Bureau & the Light Stand, (or Work table site it) and the wash stand & wardrobe; and even the old Walnut Crib for the little Mayo; I hardly see what is lacking — except Ettie & Mayo — and yet it feels bare.
There has been nothing at all done to the house or store Every thing seems just as ever before.
Mr Bird is not in Town. I have not yet learned where he is. At Meeting this forenoon Mr Metcalf read a sermon upon the death of Anson G. Phelps, preached at & partly about Ansonia Connecticut.
Messrs Smith, Rowley, Crosby & Rich were present.
C. Dunham left this morning. Kitchell & Coole last Night. Smith stops at Dr Wall's. Rowley at Burgesses's, Crosby — I do not know. Chas. Rich rides down from the Station. He came down & staid with me here Friday night. E. J. Major is here today. — {he hasn't yet / as usual.
I think it likely I shall not stay here much. Perhaps go to Dr Wall's or somewhere else in the village; or else move my Office out some where else. I hardly know yet where
There were some letters here when I arrived, one to you from Landaff, which I took liberty to open and read — very good letter — I will send it along.
One from Mr Gilman Rider & Almeda, One from Bangor

Yesterday, Most valuable, came best to hand a nice little letter from my Ettie of May 31, whereat was I gladdened and quickly devoured it. I very much thank you for it. It seems as if I could not wait a week for another. You will often I know, will you not?
Why do you not have Sabra do the Cooking, if there is no Isabel? You tell how busy you are — Ettie I do not want you to be busy — that is not at least to be tired — do not be foolish and tire yourself out as Lucy so foolishly will. I want you Ettie to rest, and run about, and play, and enjoy yourself, and grow young, & strong, and healthy. I cannot afford Ettie to let you wear out — dont.
If you can tell what items of acct are lacking to your book I will send them to you I have not seen Old Man's home. How do you all like Parish side.
I wish you would take it upon you to be a little careful of Lucy — keep her from imprudence and over exertion, and try to get her health & strength established somewhat. And the same for Maria — Mallie, isnt it. Though I am very slow of acquaintance you know, I saw enough of her to like her very much. But I am afraid she has one very bad fault — you may have heard me speak of the same in somebody else — caring for other people more than for one's self. Now isnt this a sin? To be sure Moralists &c. make out high authority for it, but I suppose it is by some perversion of Scripture — a natural one, and in most cases liable to do little hurt, Mankind generally being too supremely selfish to be affected thereby. But there are exceptional cases, some individuals — e.g. several of my immediate connections — there may be others in the world, though I have not met them — so constituted as to be liable to sin grievously, from mere Charity, as well as mere meekness.

Doubtless it is a duty to love, care for, and honor one's fellow beings; but still more to love & care for one's self. For the lesser duty neglect not the greater. — Even if the lesser is enjoined by holy Scripture — and the greater, (except by implication), is left, as is so safe in most cases, to nature & instinct.

I guess I will send your Landaff letter to Dunbarton; you will not want it before you get there; and it will make me a good excuse for me to write there. I have just been writing a letter to Brownville to Mr Rider & Wife in answer partly to the one I found here from them. Perhaps I will send their letter also to Dunbarton for you.

I suppose likely before this reaches you you may have made a visit to them at Brownville and Milo. Be careful of yourself and Mayo; and also of the rest, as I have written; and also at the same time do not trouble yourself with care and anxiety but be easy and cheerful & happy, as if your principal duty and business were to enjoy yourself.

I do not think Charles will go back until some time in July. He is doing first rate here, lives very comfortably, and is earning money faster than he ever did in his life, or is likely to at the East; and it seems a pity to have him go away so soon.

I have been writing to Mother too. I have been inviting her to go back to Dunbarton with you or at any rate make a visit there this Summer; (You can tell her so too. It would do her good. and perhaps Your Father & Mother is, would'nt it?

Wm. Crosly appears in very good health & spirits. He thinks though he wants to go home a few weeks this Summer. but I persuade him it is better not. Certainly it would cost him a hundred dollars at least; and he may just as well stay a few months longer till he get through.

I guess I must send you "Combes' Infancy." So you can have help to stick to your own theory of managing Babies. with [illegible]. I do believe Lucy ought to keep high necked & long armed dresses on Percie. He certainly has a tendency to Croup already.

And nobody that ever saw him can say that he is not good looking enough for all practical purposes or in any kind of dress. You know I have always thought even Mayo looked well enough so that it was not necessary to hurt him seriously in dressing him to look well

By the way Ettie you ought to pay the expenses of your trip to Milo and Brownville; horse hire &c. best horse & most comfortable carriage to be got at the stables; and no more than fair for you to pay all the expense — no matter who goes with you. No fear of your money holding out. Your credit is good with Eliab who is my Banker, or Samuel either. I left $400.00 with Farber & Metcalf. and perhaps may send on more by Charles: Not that I want you to spend all that but at least the hundred; not reckoning that spent before you got there. Spend money for any thing you want for yourself or others. You know how I prefer you should spend money rather than spend yourself. I wont object to your spending all the money you please even for others, as you know; but I do not like you to spend yourself for any thing.

Dear Ettie this is a long & silly letter — but you must excuse it for you know there is only half of me — less than half I guess — here now to write letters. Write me letters long & often all about my Ettie & my Mayo and about all the rest of the folks.

Do not let Mayo tumble out of bed. The best way would be to have a bed one side against the wall, and then keep him on that side. In the middle between two persons is liable & apt to be too warm for him

Most Affectionately Isaac S. M

[illegible], June 18, 1854 — Du Quoin Ill.
~~[illegible]~~ Bangor, July 2. 1854

Du Quoin Perry Co Ill. June 18 '54
Sabbath P. M.

(Ettie,

My Dear Ettie,

How sad was my disappointment last night in not finding any letters from you. I had relied so confidently upon it that I hardly knew how to be reconciled. I got one (bit of a letter) from you written only two or three days after I left Bangor which arrived here a week ago yesterday & I thought surely I would get another yesterday. But we cannot rely upon regular mails I suppose. I got back here pretty late & pretty tired, and really needed something to comfort me. It has been very warm weather. I left here on Thursday Morning, spent the day about on the Line in extreme Sun Shine, paying off Men &c. Near Night, & near Muddy River, found Express Train just ~~starting~~ [illegible] up with Mr Mason who had got along earlier than expected. I staid at ~~Centralia~~ Big Muddy that night and the next day went clear to Centralia with Mr Mason, and yesterday came back here leaving Centralia at 10 A.M. & reaching here at 11½ P.M. With my horses at any rate pretty well tired out. However I presume they rested well after it; at any rate I did.

Mr Bird is still absent. This A.M. I read at Church an excellent Sermon by L. Sabin or Templeton Mass upon

upon the Loss of the Soul. It was well for me there was no preaching perhaps — for it was very hot, and I might have fallen asleep under any probable preaching of Mr Bird or Mr Shepherd. As it was I got considerably tired before getting through. It is a very warm day Thermometer near me (in coolest place I can find says 86°. I believe there is no meeting this this afternoon. If there were, I should not attend.
I stopped at Centralia at Dunning's. Little Charlie was sick. bad cold, &c. in the absence of the wise old Dr Hotchkiss who does not approve of Medicine, the young folks gave him a dose of Medicine (sweet oil) which some way or other (choking him, & getting in to his Lungs perhaps) came near killing him. But he was better yesterday morning. He has only two teeth. He is certainly a delicate Child; hardly weighs any thing I should think, compared with Mayo & Percie; how I do want to hear of them. It does hurt me so to be away from my little Mayo all summer long. But my Hattie will be careful of him for both of us. — But don't be careful of him by holding him & taking care of him yourself, & getting tired and sick your self; but just see that he is properly taken care of by Sabra or someone. ... that his bowels are kept regular — not by medicine but by regularity, & attention to Diet.
I hoped to get letter or letters last night from which I might judge something when you would go to N. Hampshire. I am a little afraid that this letter sent to Bangor; if as long on the way as some, may reach there & find you have gone to N. Hampshire But it would take you a while to make a visit

at Milo & Brownville; about which I want to hear, w
then you had dresses &c. to have made at &c. &c. and
I do not believe you will get to N. H., before
some time in July.
Probably you will stay till Anne gets there. Charles
I think will go about the Middle of July. Samuel
Conant talks of going about the first of July. He is
horribly frightened because there are said to be a
few cases of Cholera at St Louis; and he is afraid
to go through there. It is very healthy in all this
region. no sickness of any kind apparently.
Perhaps I am likely to stay here all the Fall.
We have not commenced Track Laying yet atall
There has been no rise of water to bring up Iron
up Big Muddy, & we have to wait until the Track
is laid through the first Division which will be a
Month or so — give us good convenient time
to get every thing out of the way. Business is
prospering at Centralia; and I shall have
to be there considerable of the time.
Wherever I am I intend to write to you more
or less every Sabbath. And you must not neg
lect to write to me. You know I am here all alone
You are there among friends: I need letters much
more than you do — do I not?
You will write — I know you will.
You must excuse this letter; even if you cannot
read the whole of it. It is very hot indeed.
And I am rather languid & lazy today even
apart from that, having done a good deal of
riding in very hot sun last week.

I was out in the riding all of four days last week. Do not intend to do so much usually; and to take advantage too of more cool & breezy days.
My health however is very good, and doubtless improved by my journey.

{Isaac, DuQuoin June 9. 1853
Bangor June 19 - 1853 —

DuQuoin. June 9. 1854

Dearest Ettie

Here I am at the old Office Desk again, but just now my thoughts are far away.
I have just thought though how I have an opportunity to send to the Mt Vernon P.O. today; and by so doing a letter will be several days earlier than from here tomorrow; as I had intended.
I did not get here until yesterday 8th.
Was detained at St Louis until Tuesday 6th and then could only get out to Belleville at night. Wednesday 7 from there by Stage to Nashville; then hired a man to take me to Little Muddy. Yesterday came down here. Every body well & smart. Every thing about as usual.
Charles seems very well: will probably be in tomorrow, I may go out there, I had but a few minutes to see him as I came by yesterday.
Mrs Keys & Hetty as usual. Our old room about in statuquo. but it almost makes me homesick to go there.
And I frequently start up in Office to go up & see Ettie & Mayo, as you know I used to. Ald. at Office door though They have done nothing about moving

or repairing Keyes's House
No one to do it I presume.
Mitchell — Kentucky Mitchell & Major go in
a fight not long after we left. — fists, clubs
stones — bricks, & pistols — six shots.
No serious injury.
Mitchell left to regain.
Major is at ~~Spa~~ Toledo.
I am very busy & cannot stop to write
I want you to send me the best
Daguerreotype of Little Mayo that you
can get. — Soon —
My health is excellent. I find my
self much stronger & heartier than
when I went from here.
Strawberries are gone.
Cherries & Currants now on tapis.
Weather called Cool
All very healthy.
Will write soon again
Write to me, do very often
M. W. H. — J. S.

Mass - Du Quoin
July 2 1854

Ducoign. Perry Co. Ill.
Sabbath, July 2d, 1854
Ill. Central R.R. Unfinished Freight House.

Dearest Ettie

I believe this is fairly established as the coolest spot in Perry County; Yes probably within a hundred miles, or any where in the country except it be some cave in the rocks. The building is 60' x 40' with a wide projecting roof high above, boarded and shingled, but the doors & windows all open; floor all open and six feet from the ground; highest part of the prairie; and if there is a breath of air any where it is felt here. But the Thermometer shows 92° F. here now at 9 A.M. I tell you it is warm. One feels it the more after the hot nights. The languid nights give the system no chance to recover from the prostrating heat of the day. I think since the 20th June the Thermometer has not been below 80° F. (if as low) at any time day or night. It was very wet and cold here till near the middle (10th) of June; since that there has been hardly a shower, hot weather all the time. The ground is baked as dry & hard & burns the feet like a hot brick. One can hardly walk without thick soles. The dust in the roads — well I won't try. I moved up here last Tuesday. I have got the Office in corner of Freight House, 12' sq. (10½' high) finished off, lathed & plastered, window & door &. There I have established my safe, desk, tables and a big new book case. Over head I have set up my little camp cot bed, with every necessary convenience; For my meals I go over to our boarding house kept very tolerably by R. N. Smith, and inhabited by various Smiths, Skinners, and Carpenters, of whom Charles W. R. being Chief has the best, a very comfortable room; which however he shares with J. Conant, who having an old fashioned prejudice against Water isn't a good companion this weather

I was going down to the Old Town to Church today; though there will be no preaching, I should only have to read a sermon: but it is so very, very hot, that I am about to back out. In the first place I should have to go half a mile or more, through this sunshine which burns like a hot furnace, after the horses; then the ride down there and back — really all together it is rather too much for my courage. Do I wrong or right?

I was grievously disappointed not to get any letter from Ettie yesterday. It was a week since I got any, and I hoped. Now this week I have got to be away up to Centralia, and most likely can get no letters before another Saturday. Will then maybe I will get two. We expect Letters to be irregular in this country.

This week comes the Fourth of July. There is to be a great Celebration at Carbondale (The R.R. Track you know has now reached there.) They propose to have an Ox roasted whole &c. I have received a Special invitation to be present; but if the weather continues so hot, I think I shall prefer to be to board of such a crowd as there will be there.

There is to be also a Celebration at Richmond, and two! at Centralia, or the opposition cities each side of Centralia, One at Central City 1½ Mile north of Station, one at South Centralia ¾ Mile South. At Central City is to be a great Ball, whereunto go J. C. Smith, H. H. Given &c.

If the weather continues like this, comfort at least, will be found, if at all some where else than in a crowd any where. It is uncomfortable for me in a crowd at any time; but with the Thermometer, above 90° in the shade, it would be too bad.

I want you should write to me all about your visit to Medo and Brownville, all the particulars you can think of. I hope it was not in very warm weather; and that you had pleasant weather, and the babies were both very well.

I have got no letters from any where East for the last week.

You know I talked of going East again in August perhaps. There is little prospect now that it will be possible for me to do so. The rivers you know have been so low that there was no getting up Iron to lay on this Division. So we have laid no Track since March; obliged to wait till the track is laid through the 1st Div: which will be about July 15. Then it will take two or three weeks to put on the Big Muddy Bridge which must be hurried; and then the Track laying on this Division. It will probably be impossible for me to get away again at all this Summer. Oh dear! I want to see my Ettie; and my little Baby Mayo. But I know that you, with the help of a kind Providence, will take good care of them. Do write to me particularly every thing. I know you think of me, as I do of you, almost constantly. It is quite an employment of mine these nights when it is too warm to sleep to lie and think of Ettie & Mayo.

I hardly know where to send this Letter. I expected to get one from you yesterday which would enable me to guess where you would probably get it quickest. Anne was to reach Bangor July 6th. You would wait till then and then you would not be likely to start without waiting awhile to enjoy her visit. I guess you will stay till she goes back; and they will go with you. I guess this Letter will find you at Bangor. If you are not I will write to Eliab to forward it to New Hampshire.

We expect to have the DuQuoin Post Office moved out here to the Station in a few weeks.

(My health is very good, even the hot weather though it makes me so lazy - does not hurt me. Write me all about your health

Sincerely Isaac

{[illegible], June 25 1854}
{[illegible], July 5. 1854

Quain
Duvergé, June. 25, 1854
Sabbath Morning

My Dearest Ettie

How I did wait for letters. Yours of May 31st arrived here June 10th two weeks ago yesterday: but awful —— there was none for two weeks. Yours of June 7, did not arrive until yesterday 24th, and then with it, the one of June 13th. And also one from Mother. So I had quite a feast. Oh Ettie I love you for every letter you write to me. I am glad you like "Euthanasia". Of course you get other copies of that & Bryant, if you like, to give to any one; and I would do so. There is a great pleasure in giving as well as receiving good gifts (greatest in giving where they will be prized) and I would not deny myself the pleasure. You surely ought to make some good presents to Lucy & Maria: Let them be good ones: valuable — lasting something, and at the same time good otherwise. Remember that you have money enough — if not in your purse — in Eliab's. He has money of mine, and will honor your drafts.

Thank you for proposing the reading two chapters of French Testament every Sabbath. I have hunted up the French Testament from the bottom of trunk 8 and read this morning the 7 & 8 chap of John which is the lesson for today I believe. We will try to keep up the practice

Do not worry about my health. It is very good. I am better & stronger than last summer; and feel the heat less. The trip east did me good. I fell better for it every way: the change & the relaxation were beneficial

I have been very busy since I got back here; every thing behindhand you know, and many things to look after. I went up to Centralia week before last with Col. Mason, and again last week spending most of the week up that way. Left here Monday night & returning thursday night. I prefer to ride in the night when the weather is so very warm. Horses cannot travel in the day time when so warm as it has been here some of the time. Thermometer has been 100 F. in exposed situations in the shade — not higher than 93 though in this office I believe though I do not feel the heat as badly now as many others do here. Certainly not as I did the first summer I was out here. I did really suffer then.

P.M. Well, it is some warm today! Thermometer here by my side only 92 F. but there is not a breath of air stirring. Yesterday the ~~and~~ day before there was a fresh breeze. I commenced this letter this morning; left it to go to Church, where there was no minister. I have heard no preaching since I got back three Sabbaths; I read a very good sermon on the Immortality of the Soul; and then went down to Mr Hinkley's, G. M. to dinner: and staid there two or three hours; came back watered my horse, made some lemonade, and now sit down to write in Office.

I expect I will move my office out into the Freight Building at Du Coign Station this week. I think I shall leave this precinct for finally; though the people here are very kind offer me the choice of several boarding places, if I will stay. Mr P. Sprague, H. & G. M. Hinkley, &c have invited to make my home with them, & Dr Wall as long as they stay there. You know he has sold out to the Seminary and moves away next month. I believe the people here think it an object to keep me in town if possible.

But I hate to make a beginning any where else; and it will be more convenient for me out on the line; and perhaps too cooler too. At Mr Keyes everything is natural, & I can do as I please Some where else you know I would have to talk, as today at Hinkley's and be bored horribly. You know I can not talk — especially when I have nothing to say. Out on the Line I can do as I please having no body but myself to suit. Edwin Smith you know is keeping boarding house at the Stations; does very well. I talk of putting me up a bed somewhere in the unfinished buildings and being very comfortable there.

D. L. Phillips of Jonesboro, formerly Rev D. L. Phillips, since Pay Master, and Land Agent on 1st Div. was here last week. Came on Monday 19th, went up to Centralia & back with me, and left on Friday 23d. While I was gone came Prof. or Dr. Stevens; a Geologist sent around by the R. R. Co. to examine into Coal lands &c. He has made quite an examination into the Coal Field in this County; North & East of DuQuoin Station; and pronounces it very good & valuable; is very highly pleased with it. Now why did I not invest more in that region? I have never supposed it was so valuable. If it is it will be the finest thing to make our DuQuoin property valuable. I have been so busy had so much to do I could not be with Dr Stevens; but Mr Keyes has been around with him everywhere.

Ettie you wrote all about Mayo, of his getting strong & fat; whereat was I pleased but you did not write of your own health & strength. I suspect that you do not get strong & fat yourself fast enough, I fear you do not follow my directions How is it? failing to get Seamstresses, have you been sewing all the time yourself? It is the worst thing you could do. Oh Ettie, if you would only let the sewing alone, & spend most of the time in pleasant weather out of doors, or amusing yourself somehow in open air if possible. I had much rather & it would be much better for you to do the house work than to sew so — sew so. — so so

I do not know but you had better direct your letters hereafter to Mr. Hawkins Perry Co instead of here. I expect I shall get them more conveniently from there hereafter.

I shall direct this letter too to Bangor; thinking that you will stay till Anne get there & this letter will get there by this time.

I presume you have before now got letters from Dunbarton, and they are all well.

Oh! Ettie! I found a little lock of Mayo's hair in my Mem. Book, & look at it, and thank you.

When are you going to send me his Daguerreotype

Will you write me all about your visit to Milo and Brownville? Write to me all about what you do always, and if you write that you do not know, I will be glad. Kiss him for me

too Ettie — Aff.

L. L. . . !

AH

AH

Isaac Ducoign July 26 1854
Dunbarton July 25, 1854

Ducoign, Perry Co. Illinois.
Sabbath, July 16, 1854.

Dearest Antoinette

I got back here last night, and found two excellent letters from you, and one from Dunbarton. Did I not have a feast. The letters from you were dated June 30th, & July 5th. Oh it does me so much good to get letters & hear that you & the dear little one are well, & happy.

You mentioning walking down to Church & back and not hurting you. Good — That is the first word you have written about your own health. I believe I wrote to you in my last about it: how the only thing I had heard about your health was from a letter Mr. Crosby received from Hampden. Do write particularly about yourself as well as Mayo.

I am sorry if you miss of seeing any of your Dunbarton friends by staying so long in Maine, and also for the Father & Mother being deprived so long of the light of your countenance. But still I do like to have you stay there in Maine. I only wish your Father & Mother could go there too. I like Dunbarton very much in some respects, and yet — I hardly know what it is — there always seemed to me something lacking there, or else something too much. It is some like Old Norwich. There is something in those old towns. It may be that the enterprising young people going off so, leaves the place too destitute of the "Young America" element. It seems sort of solemn & set, all frozen up perhaps with their hands in their pockets,

Isn't there something in it? Do you ^not^ feel a little different atmosphere there & at Bangor or Milo? I do believe it would be good for your father & Mother to be in some different place occasionally. Would'nt it?

I guess I must write you of my doings since I last wrote. I believe I got my sheet full last Sabbath before I told you of the day itself. I did not go down to Du Quoin to meeting; for Mr Shepherd preached there; he has been making himself very conspicuous of late as an opposer of Calvinism. Had given notice that he would demolish the thing entirely that day; and worse than all had the impudence to give me a special invitation to be present. Now the fact is the man is almost a fool, and knows nothing what he is talking about. Of course I remembered the day, "making a note of it" to stay away. And so, I guess did almost every body else except "Aunt Sally", (Mrs Root) and she going there unknowing deliberately walked out again! Charles & I rode up to the Nine Mile Meeting house, where you & I rode once, Mr Hagle's but found no meeting. Peter preaching in Paradise prairie that day. So we rode back again.

Monday I staid here in Office, with Contractors, Estimates &c. &c. very busy. Tuesday I went down to Big Muddy on Train, and down a peice on M^d^ Div. hoping to see Mr Watson, but did not & returned here at night with Hand Car. Wednesday morning I went up to Little Muddy early; staid there most of the day, & up to Richmond at night. Thursday morning up to Centralia early, remaining there till 6 Friday night then to Richmond again by 9 P.M. I have to be at Centralia a considerable part of my time nowadays I expect.

My health is very good nowadays. The hot weather does not affect me near as much as it did. It came on so sud

sensly when I first came out here; that every body suffered. but about a week ago came a little relaxation of the extreme heat for a day or two, quite tolerable weather. Thermometer once or twice down to 70° F. and it seemed to brace me up. & do me much good. I have not felt the heat at all so much since.

Today I have been, with Charles in my wagon, down to the Du Quoin to Church, & read a long Sermon on the Atonement — reply probably to Mr Shepherd of last Sabbath. It was long, controversial, and hard to read. I got quite tired of reading; as it was hot, and the air very close. Refused very many invitations to dinner, stopping only at Dr Walls to enquire after Mr Noel who is there sick, as also Mr Aspen; we returned here. Mr Noel was taken a week or more since with Billious Fever I expect. Sent for Dr Wall who prescribed 40 grains of Calomel, Noel said 60 grains would have cured him, but the Dr would give only 40 & so he sick, and worse salivated. Noel you know is hard headed; was years ago in habit of drinking his quart of Brandy per diem; and it takes a great dose of medicine to effect him. J. C. Smith & J. N. Kitchell started for the East Friday or Saturday. to be gone a month.

I told you I got yesterday a letter from Dunbarton Father & Mother. I would write a special answer to it; but perhaps it is needless, as I shall direct this letter to you there; as I presume you will reach there by the time this does.

Father wants to know about my plans. You can tell him all about it as well as I can I guess. I believe there is nothing new. I have already explained to you how our lack of Iron & delay here on the Track is like to keep me closely confined here all the Summer

Summer & fall. I cannot probably get away at all, till I get through here; and can tell nothing yet when that will be. Suppose I could not it away next fall; and you & George could come out here to a comfortable home at Centralia! But it is very likely I shall leave here finally before Winter. And also very probable than when I do get through here Mr Mason will have some good situation to recommend me to. But it will doubtless be "away out west", and next I expect we must be contented to remain some where, until I can be able to retire from Business. However I intend to save money pretty fast, besides, making some on Town Lots.

Nettie! I do want to see that Daguerreotype of Little Mayo. I do. I want too to see a better one of yourself; you were pale & sick almost when this was taken. It seems a reproach to me for bringing you out here. When you get fairly fat & stout & rosy again I want you to have another taken & send out to me. Perhaps you will get yours & Mayo's taken together. That would be good: all my treasures in one casket! At Centralia I stop at the Dunnings. It is a very pleasant family. Geo Dunning is going into the Boarding House there. When you come out next fall; you can board with them. Little Charley is unwell — sickly I think He weighs only 14 or 15 lbs I believe. We are going to have a very comfortable place to live there by & by. When we get the great house up especially. It will be really a great Hotel, every thing in order, & of the best. A great R. R. Hotel. How will you like "Hotel Life"?

Well, I expect I have already written about enough for this letter.
But I happen to think of Mother's coming home to Dumbarton with you; and so I ought to write some to her. Yet I do not know as I have any thing more to write. I wrote to her at Milo last week. But I am very glad if she will undertake the journey. I know it is good for elderly people to travel about, & do hope Mother will. And too your own Father & Mother I know it would be good for them to travel about a little.
You know they did not as expected last year. Now you are there you can get them off, can you not? to Massachusetts or to New York to see the Crystal Palace or to the White Mountains or some where, and you go too of course

[illegible]

though I am almost selfish enough to almost hate to have you go without me.
At any rate make Father & Mother take a journey if you can.
If you did not get that 100. of Eliab just write to me & let me know. & I will send you a few spare XX's I have lying by me.
Anne ought to write to me.
She & Dr De Witt, tell them, when they next come out to Illinois to see their son, must come down here & make me a visit (even if you are not here) to make up for missing it last year.
Write soon all how Mayo bears the journey to Dunbarton
Love to all good people
Isaac S.

Isaac Ducoign July 9, 1854.
Dunbarton July 22. 1854.

Du Quoin, Perry Co. Illinois, July 9. 1854

My Dearest Antoinette

Last Sabbath I had to complain of lack of letter from you. This week I am much better off in that regard. On my way down from Centralia on Thursday night I stopped at Mr Hankins Post Office and got the DuQuoin Mail, in which I found a nice letter from you, and by by yesterday's mail came another of the same sort, and also two packages of — Mr Keyes said he judged Baby Clothes)! Oh Ettie I am so much obliged to you to being so good to write to me. I know you will continue to do so. You cannot write too often or too much. I shall write regularly as often as once a week — every Sabbath — which is the time I can well write good long letters. My writing letters of week days must be mainly confined to business letters.

Fourth of July, what did you do & see at Bangor? Write all about it? I must tell you all about the week here. I believe I wrote to you that I had a special invitation to go to Carbondale to assist there "to Celebrate the "Birth Day of our Nation's Independence, in connection with the Advent of the Iron "Horse upon the Ill. Central R.R" Their expectations of being "honored by my presence" were however disappointed. They had a great crowd there I suppose, some four or five thousand people. Great excursion train from Cairo & Jonesboro. They might have liked it if I would have put a big train on this Division & carried down a thousand or so of people. But I would not do it. In that extreme hot weather there would be no comfort in it to begin with. And then I do not like great excursion trains any how, if I can avoid them, and especially here on a new road, with open cars, and so much whiskey with such people as are here. There is too much risk about it. I should hardly expect to carry a thousand people down to Muddy on 4th July & get them all back alive. However I saw three celebration celebrations that day in Washington & Clinton Counties. Mr Smith came up from Big Muddy on Sunday 2d and stopped with me.

We started about daylight Monday Morning 3d went up to Mr Hawkins to Breakfast, where the folks were most all sick; then on to Little Muddy spending the day there and went up to Richmond just at night when cool. Mr Smith left his Carriage at Little Muddy, for Given to carry certain Ladies to a Ball with; and he rode with me for the rest of the week mainly. At Richmond we found great preparations for the 4th a barbecue &c. Monday evening we saw the Cooking going on. It would have amused you. I must try to describe it. Imagine first long trenches dug in the ground say 3 or 4 ft. wide & 2 or 3 ft. deep, & almost any length. Across these trenches laid lots of round green sticks, say two or three inches through & peeled. On these sticks for a gridiron lay the Meat, quarters & halves, & sides & peices & strips of oxen, & cows & sheep & hogs &c. &c. Near by an immense fire, piles and cords of wood burning. Lots of smutty & sweaty looking men, some piling on wood to replenish the fire, and more scraping out the live coals, & throwing into the before mentioned trenches, under the meat. It was quite a scene in the night, I can assure.

The next day without stopping to see the assemblage at Richmond which amounted to some thousands, Sons of Temperance Odd Fellows &c. &c. We went on North on the R.R. Line, paying considerable attention to that in its various manifestations. At South Centralia (One Mile south of the Centralia Station, (quite a village which has sprung up there within a few months) we passed another Celebration, quite a crowd, a thousand or two, with a tall flag, a small cannon, an orator & a PicNic Dinner in a Little Grove. We were urgently solicited to remain but went on We were there about Noon. Stopping awhile at Centralia Station we went on to Central City two miles beyond. There was another similar crowd & adjuncts; they claimed 4 or 5 thousand people flags, cannon, & 2 or 3 orators, Judge Underwood for one. The Crowd just beginning to disperse when we got there. We went to Dunning's, the most comfortable place it is in the country now. The Family you know consists of Mrs Hurd the Mother of the Dunnings, mentioned first as most important George Dunning, & Fanny his wife with Little Charley. G. D.'s brother C.

Dr Dunning & wife & Child, & Dr Hotchkiss & wife, late of Nashville, oldest & most celebrated physician in this part of the State, who is Uncle to the Dunnings. These with plenty (some 10) of Children Dr. H's & Mrs Hurds' make quite a family. We went there & got Dinner, and staid. There also came soon afterward Judge Underwood, Old Esq Bond of Carlyle; Editors of Nashville & Sparta Papers, and half a dozen other principal guests, as to the best stopping place in Town. Pleasant & Sociable company. In the Evening, in fact all night nearly, was a great Ball at a tavern house near by, where partitions being removed, large Numbers danced on rough floors, or out on a mess of sawdust under the trees; a few miserable brass instruments (called a Band) for music, & other adjuncts probably in proportion. Well every body danced but this one. Mr Smith, Mr Post, Mr Rowley! Gen. Dunham &c. &c. &c. till Morning. This humble individual "did them the honor" to go over about 9 oclock and look on a few minutes, then returned with half concealed amusement, to a very comfortable bed, which he enjoyed finely, slightly disturbed about daylight by the attempts of sundry wearied gentlemen of his acquaintance to find room for recumbent positions.

Next day 5th it was amusing to see 'em. I spent the day in various business at the Station. Smith, Rowley & Post mainly asleep. Dunham at the Station with me fell asleep on the Ground almost as I was talking with him. Next day 6th We returned hither. Friday & Saturday plenty busy in Office, with Monthly business, Estimates Pay Rolls &c. &c.

There — I believe I have given you quite an account of the Fourth of July and the whole week in which it happened. Such a long winded description you will hardly have patience to read, so hastily & badly written

I am very much obliged to you for your account of your journey & visit to Milo; and so doubtless is Charles. He does not get any letters from home lately because I expect they expect him home; & so I showed him your letter. The only trouble was you did not write enough about it: you now you stretch out your writing so that a little fills up the line & page. You did not make a very long visit did you? (It was longer than Fourth of July, which you had made it so on Paper) I believe I must scold. "Haven't I told you always to write Proper Names distinctly? names of persons, places & books? How can I tell what book you gave to Albina!

The Cravats came safely to hand yesterday. How did you know I did not wear any thing on my neck in warm weather? I do though, have worn ever since I got back here, a bit of a stock, a few horse hairs slightly covered with a few threads of silk: keeps up better than any handkerchief & is cooler & lighter than any thing else. They are very nice ones you sent, & so is the Pocket H— I have got one on my neck today.

I puzzled a long time to think who the Mrs Herd you mentioned as coming to Dinner could be; but I finally thought. She was Mrs Foss; and a very pleasant sort of woman. What could have possessed her to marry him. Now Charles speaks of it I remember all about him as well as her, a wretched hog.

Quart of Peanuts! What an investment! I suppose Apples cost so much you could n't buy them! You say nothing of Oranges, Pine Apples & Bananas. I take it you did not even dare to enquire the price of them. You did not say how much Samuel got for his horse. What is "Father Bang!!..."? the book you got for Parish Side. Going a Shopping again—again! How afraid I am you will wastefully spend your money! I expect you could see the prints of your fingers on those gold peices where you have held on to them—couldn't you? You ought to write to me how the store holds out, how many peices you have left. I wish you would spend enough to dress respectably—decently at least; and that you would contrive to do it for both yourself & baby without sewing so yourself so. Perhaps too you could make Mallie & Lucy sundry nice presents. Suppose now you get them each a good silk dress. Would n't it be a good plan? Remember now have been enjoying their hospitality these two months. I really believe we ought to. In right we ought to pay them for Sabra's board. But I suppose they would not take it. Come Ettie, if you will get each of them a $25.00 dollar silk dress, you may have another yourself. That is right. Go now to Eliab and get 100.00 giving him a receipt in my name and use it in that way. Do now.

It is wicked to put so many stitches into clothes—very wicked—that is especially doing it yourself—If you could hire people whose business it is, and pay them fairly for it it would not be so bad. If you can not get work done for you just let it go. At any rate do not Ettie—for my sake—so so sew so yourself. By the way you write me nothing at all about your health—how you think I have to do to find any thing about it. Crosby got a letter from home the other day, & his mother wrote that your health was improving. I rejoiced at the news it was more than I had heard from you. I wish you could get Mother to go to D. Mrs Keyes doubtless did not want me there, tried to get me away as she best could. My how nice it would have been for your father & Mother to have come down to Bangor & go home with you. You could have paid their expenses you know. Truly Yours Isaac S. M.

Isaac Duquoin July 23. 1854
[illegible] Aug. 1. 1854

Ducoign, July 23d 1854

My Dearest Antoinette

This poor forlorn individual did not get any letter from his Ettie yesterday! To be sure he got two in the course of the week before, but then one would have been very acceptable for today, if Uncle Sam would only have brought it along. And the worst of it happens that usually whenever the Mail fails, it is next before a week when I have to be away, and can not get letters. So I suppose ~~this~~ week letters from you will come by Tuesday's Mail perhaps; but I shall be away all the week, and not get them until Saturday. I am going tomorrow to Centralia and the North Country & probably be gone about all the week. This week I have not been ~~[illegible]~~ at all. Monday 17th I staid here in Office. Tuesday I went down to Big Muddy, and (by Train on 1st Div. where track has nearly reached Muddy) to Jonesboro. Wednesday I went with Mr Watson &c. down over the First Div. to Cairo, or as near as we could get to there (there are two or three miles of Track yet to lay there at Cairo. We have laid no more track here yet, and cannot you understand until it is completed to Cairo. If we could only have had Iron here you perceive we could have had our Track nearly laid now. But there has been no high water to get Iron up Muddy, and we have to wait until we can get it from Cairo. And it is very bad laying Track there now, as they are trying to. It is too hot weather for men to work much any where: and about twice as bad there as any where else. Besides it is necessarily sickly there.

There were 35 deaths of Cholera there two or three weeks since I
though there are none lately. They have to pay men double
wages to work there, and then they hardly do any thing.
At Jonesboro they call it perfectly healthy now. There were
two or three cases of Cholera there a few weeks ago; among the
rest Mr Watson after some exposure & fatigue had it, and pretty
severely too the rest day. He has had it two or three times be=
fore though, and says if where he can be taken care of and prop=
erly treated he is n't so much of it as of a Bad Cold.
The Cholera seems to have been pretty bad in Chicago, as well
as St Louis, and also I suspect in all the Eastern Cities.
I am afraid they may have it again at Bangor.
Here it is perfectly healthy as it seems everywhere except
at Big Muddy, and there is nobody there now. Mr Noel
came up from there sick week before last, has had a run
of Billious fever, & is about well now. Same of Appern, German
Foreman at Big Muddy; well now. Mr Mitchell has not
been very well this summer for a month or two: a week ago
yesterday came up from Big Muddy sick, has had a sort of
slow Billious fever, at Mr Keyes' house. Is better and will
soon be about again. My own health is very
good, much better than last summer I think.
The hot weather does not seem to affect me at all. It did
some at first in June. But the hot weather in June was
different from this & really worse I think. Not so hot days, but
hotter nights. Then for a week or two the Thermometer did
not fall below 80° F. at any time in the twenty four hours, at the
same time not rising above about 92 in the Afternoon. Now
for a week or two past the Thermometer rises frequently to
97 or 98 in the Afternoon in the coolest situations; and has been 95° at
8 P.M., but falls before morning nearly to 70° F.

And I think this kind of hot weather is easier to bear, not so debilitating. Just to think though of People complaining of heat (as you wrote about) at Bangor; how ridiculous!
But this Country is greivously afflicted now. The heavens are brass, the Earth Iron, and the rain of the land powder & dust. There has hardly been any rain at all since I got here. This flat country you know suffers from Drouth much more than a broken country. The Corn is all drying up, leaves all rolled together and withered away. The Early planted is ruined entirely, and nothing but rain within a few days can save any part of the Crop. As for the dust in the roads you can have no idea of it hardly. It is rivers of it in the roads, Clouds & walls of it in the Air, and heavy coats of it upon every thing.
Water too is getting very scarce throughout the Country. If it does not rain very soon there must be very much suffering, of beasts if not of men. The country is dependent upon wells entirely, and they are failing every where. We appear to have got large supplies of water here at this Station, & people come far to get it and haul away.
You enquired w^d do for Shirts, very well I presume. I soil some occasionally this warm weather, but by sending out to a washerwoman occasionally I have as yet found no lack & presume I will not. I think the supply is quite good. By the way, I have seen what I think must be a very good thing for this hot weather; That is a Shirt and vest all together, all one peice. The linen bosom of the shirt is open & buttons up just like a vest, and shows simply as a white linen vest buttoning up to the Chin. It must be good, honorably dispensing with the vest, which is such weather is a very uncomfortable thing but required by Custom.

I feel more sorry about not getting letters yesterday and being away from the Post Office ~~that~~ week, because I am anxious to hear from you. I want to hear all about the visit of the Ohio folks; and how all liked the Doctor in all respects &c &c. and also because I am anxious to know as soon as possible all about y'r journey to New Hampshire; and how the travelling agrees with the little Mayo. Of course, you will write me all about him — and send me that Daguerreotype too, and write me of your own health as well as his — will you not?

Write me particularly. I want to hear of every time Mayo tumbles down & hurts himself! And whether he begins to try to talk any. and how many teeth he has always. &c.

I want to hear too how George gets along &c.

And also all about that journey of Father & Mother.

As for news. Horace Smith has today got back with his wife & Child. 17 mos. old been gone two weeks for them, is to board here yet does not walk any yet. Mrs Smith is, as you say I believe, in an extremely flourishing condition. Mr Campbell is detained from his work here on acc't of the imminent similar condition of his wife across Mr Keyes yard you know. Mrs P. G. Willis at Vergennes has another child since a week. This is a flourishing Country you perceive.

Samuel Conant has started home today; got a letter that his wife was sick, and would stay no longer; afraid to go too, I expect. He is just about nervous & frightened enough to get the Cholera, if any one.

This whole region is perfectly healthy, & the cities are improving I believe in that respect.

If I do not get back here until Saturday night, I will expect to find two letters from you

Most sincerely,

Isaac F.

Isaac. Ducoign July 30. 1854
Dunbarton Aug 8. 1854

1

Ducoign, Sabbath. July 30th 1854

Dearest Ettie

It is a bright & beautiful Sabbath Morning. All Nature seems to be rejoicing in the light of Day. There is a little breeze in the morning here which is very fine. The Thermometer is not above 80°F. till 7 or 8 o'clock. The Morning dew freshens things a little, and every thing seems glad. I was a little too fast though in my statement of the Thermometer. It is hardly 7 yet, and the Thermometer now stands at 86°F. It stood a long time yesterday at 100°F. in the coolest situation we have here. And I presume will be as high today. I hardly see how we bear it: but it doesn't affect me, and does n't seem to others. I expect we have got used to it. The first hot weather in June was very hard on me, and seemed to affect every one much more than now. Now any thing below 90°F. seems a very comfortably cool temperature. One thing is cooler nights than we had in June which brace up the system & enable it to endure the rigor of the day.
The Drouth is excessive. You can hardly imagine it. The Old Yard at Mr Keyes' house, (I was down there yesterday to see Mitchell who is still sick there), looks as if burned over: There is no green thing, dry & crisp as can be about. As, for fruit there is none, or hardly likely to be of any kind. And Farmers have pretty much given up the idea of having ~~even~~ any Corn crop this year. Even the Corn is dryed up
~~week before last~~
Last week I did not get any letter from Ettie. So that Last Sunday I had none to reply to. I went up to Centralia on Monday; but succeeded in getting back on Thursday; when I found your good letter of July 12th, written before you left Bangor

I was quite anxious to hear of your journey, and safe arrival at ~~Bangor~~. the Dunbarton; and hoped I would get a letter from there on Saturday but it did not come. I got however a letter from Mother at Milo, and one from Eliab at Bangor of 17th inst. telling that you had started from there. You ask where is Dr Wall going. I do not know yet. I am glad you like Eliab and all the Maine folks: write me all about them all. — what you think of them. Glad you bought some books for them; why not more? Who is Mrs Isaac Hatch who called to see you. I am sure I do not know.

All the letters from Milo are full of disappointments because Charles does not come home this summer. Albina, I judge is entirely unreconciled; hardly able to submit to it at all. Mother proposes to go to Bangor with Dr DeWitt & Wife when they return from Milo; and perhaps go on to Ohio with them. If so I suppose she would call at Dunbarton & see you: Her only hesitation seems to be about leaving Maria this Summer. I do not know but she ought to stay on that account. But I do want her ~~to~~ go to Ohio; as well as to Dunbarton. Mother seems most troubled about not having more chance to see, and get acquainted with Little Mayo. They tell a great story from Milo of the Little Charley's labors in getting up a Liberty Pole on the Fourth of July.

Did I tell you in my last letter of Samuel Conant's leaving here. He got letters a week since that his wife was sick; and started right away Sunday noon. Got to St Louis we hear on Tuesday Morning and left there Tuesday evening, for Alton, La Salle, Chicago, same route we went. Very like got home Saturday yesterday, if he had good luck, & could stand it to keep right on.

It seems entirely healthy in this region now. though I most wonder at it, seeing all the children with their mouths full of the miserable dried up half grown green fruit. I had written you of the Big Muddy sick folks. R. Vollstern, the German foreman soon got well, went up to Centralia, and is very well there. Mr Noel had a regular Billious Fever; and got Salivated beside; so he got well very slow; and

has only just within a few days got about. Friday last went down to Muddy for the first time. Mr Abram Mitchell has quite a sick time; a regular Billious Fever — is yet unable to sit up at all. Dr Says however that the fever has left him a day or two now, and he has nothing to do but get well at once; but he has go so reduced that it will doubtless be slowly.
Crosby & the rest are very well — as also Pst & Rowley; Smith with Harry Mitchell, as I wrote you probably, started East just after the 15th of July. Wish I did ———
May be this Letter may find Mother with you at Dumbarton. If so, advise her by all means to go to Ohio. I know that the travelling will be good for her.
Let me see, I believe your friends' husband Mr Hatch, is from New Gloucester, & an intimate friend of my Classmate & friend Jonathan Greenleaf Eveletth of New Gloucester Maine. I see in the Newspapers, that said J. G. E. has lately invented a sort of Iron Pavement for City streets, & sold out the right for $100.000.00 Pretty well for the Chap — considering that he was poor as dirt, and we did not consider him very Smart either!
Mother thought one of Charles' reasons for remaining here through the summer — that peaches would be ripe here by & bye — quite ridiculous, when his wife was so anxious to see him at home. Well tell her he has got finely paid for it; for there is, & is likely to be, no peaches here this year.
Mother says that I am to bring you & Mayo there again this Fall. What think of it!
Mother is afraid she will not hear from Charles & Me, unless she is at Milo. She need not be, I will write to her, if I only know where she is.
I believe I do not go to Church today. Thermometer 94°F. at 9 A.M. Likely to be the hottest day yet. My wagon is undergoing repairs, & it is altogether to bad for horseback.

Why do you not write to me all about what you read, and what you think about it. I would only I do not read any nowadays hardly except the News papers ; ~~and~~ ~~the~~ chapters of French & Independent & Cong= Herald on Sunday. Tribune & St Louis Papers on Week days.
Now you get to Dunbarton I expect you will write to me all about every thing there. Health & Spirits of Father & Mother Progress of Everybody else that I know, or ought to know ; And especially all about George. his condition, prospects &c. &c.
One thing I am a little afraid there at Dunbarton you are a little too apt to shut your self up in the house too much — not walk & ride out doors enough. Of course you will have Mayo out doors every day. Have him if you have not a nice little light two wheel Carriage. Of course do not rely upon that old borrowed one with bed bugs in it. And do go out yourself every day. Walk about and visit all the neighbors more than ever you did in your life — And ride about too — and write to me every thing you see — If your father has not got a horse you can drive safely yourself — or ride horseback — ride out with father every time he goes any where : he will let you I guess if you coax him smartly. Your great business is to Enjoy yourself & Mayo, and to get a fine stock of health & strength for both of you. — and — write and let me know all about it —

Most sincerely Isaac L. M.

Isaac Ducoign Aug 5 - 1854
Dumbarton Aug 15 - 1854

$20.00 ne

Ill. Central Freight House Office
Du Coign Station, Perry Co. Illinois
8 O'clock. Saturday Evening Aug. 5th
1854

My Dearest Wife

Well! The labors of another week are o'er. I have just filed away the papers — you know what a mass of them are found on my desk on working days — put away the plans & note books & time files &c.; locked up the Safe; and sat myself comfortably down thinking of my Ettie & my Baby; and rejoicing to have an Ettie and a Baby Mayo to remember, & think of. Can you imagine me here? Do not think of the Old dark, low ceiled, & dirty Old Du Quoin Office. This you know is a very different place. You remember the Large Frame Charles was just putting up when you left here — On the West side of R.R. Track — (4 or 5 feet up from the ground, and no platform or steps yet built) In the S. E. Corner (next the Pass. House) a room finished off only 12 × 14 but 12 feet high, plastered bright & white; On the East one great window 9 ft. high × 5 ft. wide. On the North side stands the big office table. N. W. a door into the Main building. South the large outside door. S. W. a big Book Case, made on purpose, and under it the Safe. S. E. Corner (between door & window) my same Old Desk A great brown linen curtain to the window. I sit of course at the desk, with my face partly toward the window — not in Ettie's Chair, for that is in the Sleeping Apartment, that is, a part of a floor laid overhead, in the big open building. I guess you can form a tolerable idea of it. Another thing; the good pine floor has a bushel or two of wastepapers on it.

Last week Saturday I did not get any letter from you; but on Tuesday Aug. 1st before I went North I did, your good letter of July 19th or 20th, written soon after you reached Dunbarton, and which I was anxious to get to learn of your prosperous journey & safe arrival at Dunbarton. I had before got a letter from Eliab mentioning that you had left Bangor. By Tuesday mail also I got a nice letter from Lucy with a little one from Maria also. I had slight hopes to get another from you today; but got no letters at all: though a fine lot of Newspapers including two Independents & a Congregational Herald.
By the way does Putnam's Monthly come to Dunbarton regularly? It should.
I am much obliged to you for your account of all your journey &c. I can realise all about you much better for your writing the particulars. Keep doing so. I am glad you went to Old Town &c. I am glad you got Mayo vaccinated — hope it took well, and was good. I am anxious to hear from it again.
I expect you are likely to be disappointed of your visit at Dunbarton from the DeWitts. Lucy & Maria wrote that they had reckoned up their spendings, & found them $500.00; and as they had had part of a chance to visit you at Bangor &c. they were about regretfully concluding to hasten home without going to Dunbarton at all.
Ettie — dearest Ettie — I would not keep Salsa at any rate if she does not suit you. I did not think so much of it before. But from what Mother & Lucy & Maria all write — (you have not written me enough about her — it is plain that she is a trouble to you. I judge she is not pleasant even, or really good to Mayo. I expect

She is a sort of uneasy discontented gloomy person decidedly unpleasant to you. I fear she has troubled you a good deal. If you can make her do the housework, washing &c. & all cooking, relieving Mother entirely of all care of those things; have her do so, and keep her by all means, but keep yourself and Mayo away from her as much as you can. If necessary keep Jenny out of school; Teach her yourself, if you like, more & better things than she could learn in School, or give her my word for for it that she shall have better chances to go to School sometime. Perhaps you can get some other girl to suit you, and both dispense entirely with Salva, and send Jenny to School. At any rate suit yourself perfectly & fully in some way — acting "as one having authority" — one that must necessarily be fully suited in some way — Will you not, Ettie!

Lucy worries for fear you did not enjoy your visit there among so much confusion & changing help &c. She says it was the worst time in that respect that she ever had — but promises better times when you come back in the Fall! Percie's vaccination did not take. I want to hear about Mayo's. They have got a Daguerreotype of Percie. Maria writes about your being very good there in some respects; but that you were naughty in one very bad particular. You would "Sew. Sew"!!!

Now Ettie - dont do so any more dont dont. Why I had rather hear that you were doing house work, or taking care of the Baby, or washing, or cooking or any thing almost. In any such thing you would have a sense of fatigue as a better defined limit to tell you when to stop. But in to sewing you might keep on to sewing till you killed yourself almost. I know it cannot be good for you to do so

Oh Ettie — if you do not, as I am somewhat inclined to believe, care any thing at all for yourself, do Ettie, on my account, — and on Little Mayo's account, do take care of your health, do. The sewing so much must certainly be injurious to you — the worst thing you could do. I do believe you would have now been fatter & stronger & in better health every way, if you had not sewed so much at Bangor. Just think of it now, and realise that your duty to your dear little Boy will not allow of it. I want to hear of your riding and running, and walking about all round the Town, in the wood or pastures after flowers or berries or mosses, or gossipping with the neighbors, or any where except sitting & sewing sewing. I would give a hundred dollars to know you did not touch a needle for three months — I am sure you could find enough else to do. Writing letters & reading what you would want to would surely be sedentary employment enough for you. Now of course you will think I am unreasonable (I know I am — but then —) and would talk about the "necessity" of sewing — but then I do not believe in such necessity — As long as Shops contain all descriptions of every thing ready made — and you have money to pay for them, or for hiring work done to suit you.

—— There Ettie! if you will forgive all this I will try not to do so again ——

Did I tell you what I have done the past week. — (I always write you my record I believe) — Well not much I guess.

Monday I went down to Big Muddy on Hand Car, to attend to very many things there & at De Soto, and to see to time of work of men along the track for July. Mitchell's sickness (he is not out yet, though better) makes me additional work. Came up on Express Train Tuesday (Aug. 1st) in Office till 3 P.M. Then with Thermometer at 101° F. in coolest of positions in shade started north. Little Muddy at Night. Wednesday to Richmond & Centralia. Thursday back again to Little Muddy. There a fine little shower at night, cooling the air which had been over 100° F. for many days. Friday Home & down to Old Town to see Mitchell. Saturday here in Office all day. Most Affectionately J. A.

Isaac Aug 27-1854 - Ducoigne Ills -
Dumbarton Sept. 5-1854

Ducoigne Perry Co. Illinois, Aug. 27 '54

Dearest C.

Here I am again at Ducoign, seated at the same old Desk and writing again to my <u>dear wife</u>. I wrote to you - or pretended to - in much haste - a bit of a letter while at St Louis the other day. That letter you will doubtless get long before this - perhaps even before the one mailed here some days before. I got back here from St Louis last night 9 P.M. Left St Louis on Friday Morning by rail to Carlyle, stayed there three or four hours & then out to Centralia with my horses which I had left there as I went in. Saturday in forenoon came down to Little Muddy, and at night down here. It was really uncomfortable in St Louis. A City is always uncomfortable in hot weather, and St Louis seems unusually so. There is no benefit of the breeze in the city - and that you know is the principal thing we live upon in the Prairie. The nights there seem little better than the days. Here I could hardly sleep at all the ~~first~~ nights I was in St Louis. And then the Mosquitoes, are certainly worse there in the city of St Louis than I have seen them any where else at the West. No one can sleep - without Mosquito Bars - and those you know I dislike.

At Carlyle, stopping there to look after Lumber, Castings and other freight coming out for the R.R. I was much exposed to the extremely hot sun, and got heated so I did not feel quite so well that night.

that night at Centralia, or all the next day; but I to-day am well as ever again. I will be careful the next time about exposing myself too much to the sunshine.
Your last letter of Aug. 10th I got at the W. Hawkins R. [illegible] last Monday night; and it made me glad all the way all the week. It is too bad to be kept so far away, and makes one not a little sad and grieved sometimes — but then, as Charles says, it is a good thing to have a Wife, even if one cannot be with her. — Yes especially, if one has as good a Wife as my Ellie!
It is so sickly there in New Hampshire, and everywhere there among the hills, that I am really afraid to have my family remain there! If I could only have them out here in these healthy Prairies! Really it does seem that it must be very sickly there, and it is certainly very healthy here about [illegible] so far this season — though [illegible] the Country it is called a very sickly season. It has been really sickly in some places.
Oh I do so want to see Mayo! His Daguerreotype is a great [illegible] to me. I am so much obliged to you for it. Is Mayo really afraid of grown persons? You say he is pleased with Children but will not speak to grown persons. Does he cry when they speak to him? How much does he weigh?
So I suppose that Father & Mother have not yet got home if they were to be gone three weeks. It were they to get home yesterday. I hope you did not get lonesome & homesick. But you will write to me all about it. I hope they have a very pleasant visit — and it does them much good. Is it curious — I have
Here I went out to water my horses, and coming back could not imagine what was curious. Finally by tracing over the whole long train of thought I find it was that I had

never seen any of your diaries — that is except one
[illegible] wike. Some time we may have more leizure.
You write that Mayo is out every day. Is Ettie out with him?
You say she tries to be well and get strong. How? By sitting
still and sewing sewing all the time in the house [illegible]
Do you be out of doors at least seven hours every day.
that is when it does not rain, and then out in the shed
or running about in the house with doors open.
Oh Ettie, My Ettie, My dear Ettie, do take care of your health
and strength. Of what consequence is a little mis-
erable paltry sewing compared with your health
and strength to Isaac & Mayo.
We have laying has at last commenced a-
gain here — though it will probably advance rather
slowly for a week or two — till we can get the Big
Muddy Bridge up — Then we intend to crowd
it as rapidly as possible. Mr Wm Crosby is
not very well just now; attacked yesterday with
symptoms of Ague or rather perhaps of Billious or
Remittent Fever. But I hope he will soon
get over it. Mr Mitchell is getting quite smart
again — says he walked nearly ten miles yes-
terday. Mr [illegible] & the rest are quite well.
Mr Conley I think I mentioned went in to [illegible]
with me. Conley & Smith & Co expect to get through
[illegible] in about a [illegible] with [illegible]. Mr Smith
has not yet got back is expected soon [illegible].
I have not been to meeting today. I feel some con-
siderable tired last night, and sleepy. Had hardly
had a real good night's rest in the whole week.
[illegible] to breakfast decidedly late, and

Until it is [illegible] retired again [illegible]
little [illegible] and spend most of the remaining of
[illegible] in reading the Independent &c.

I got several Books at St Louis
"Sunlight ~~through~~ the Mist" I gave to M. E. Rodgers as I came home after reading it on the way. An evangelical Episcopal Book for Children. — Mrs Beecher Stowe's "Sunny Memories" — I don't know as I shall [illegible] time to read it — Have you not ere this got it & read it — Write to me about it. — "My Schools & Schoolmasters" Hugh Miller's Autobiography I talk of giving to Mitchell if he will read it — as perhaps I shall too — Dickens "Hard Times" — Ruskin's "Lectures on Architecture & Painting" — author you remember of Books Anne was praising so much at Elyria "Stones of Venice" "Seven Lamps of Architecture" I do mean to find some time to read — have not however so far this summer. My leisure from business has been only to read the Newspapers & to write to Ettie — By the way, you have plenty of time to read this summer & I haven't. Why do you not read some books which I have read, & you have not, and write to me about them. Would it not be a good plan for both of us?
Oh My Dearest Wife Ettie, why will you not send me a really good Daguerreotype picture of your own nice little self — about a V worth at least — perhaps a full length — in a light frame or case to send by mail. Do Ettie — Come, I would give more than that to please my Ettie — and you need not grudge just a V or X worth to send to me.
Charles has hardly decided yet when to [illegible] East.
Collins [illegible] has left the Road & gone home East.
Oh Ettie! how live a heathen I do live here — Only to think of it here ever since the 2nd Week in June most ~~three~~ months — I believe I have heard but one single Sermon preached — That is all that has been preached at [illegible] except by the Methodists.
To be sure I have been obliged to read some sermons myself —
Now — think of it — how I do need an Ettie to take care of me & keep me good — Am I getting still more careless about going to Meeting? I do not know but I ought to have gone down to Meeting today. — but then I was tired & sleepy, and did not feel a bit like reading a long hard sermon to 'em. Good bye Isaac

Isaac - Centralia Sept 3. 1854
Dunbarton Sept. 9 - 1854 -

Centralia, Ills. Sept. 3rd 1854

My Dearest Wife

Here I am away from home on Sunday. It is the first time this Summer. I came rather unexpectedly. Mr Mason & Mr Burrall came up from the First Division on Friday Night, stopped with me at Ducoign over night, and then came up with me here on yesterday; leaving me here over Sunday. It is not much of a Sunday place - there are no meetings - only a great lot of men - mechanics &c. loafing about, sleeping & writing letters &c.

I hear however that there is a Camp Meeting two or three miles off & perhaps I may go over there this Afternoon.

Your last letter I received joyfully last Tuesday on my way up here. I wish I had it here today to read over again. I staid at Ducoign last Monday. Tuesday came up to Little Muddy, remaining there most of the day; up to Centralia in the night. The weather being very hot. Staid here all day Wednesday - Wednesday Night rode to Little Muddy. Thursday Morning to Ducoign, Friday down to Elk Prairie and Big Muddy. And Saturday up here again. So I made out quite a week's travelling about. Very hot weather, all the time too. Mr Mason & Mr Burrall (who you know [illegible] I.C.R.R.) seemed in very good spirits. They had got along better here than they expected; and were well pleased with the Contractors on

[illegible]

[illegible] the way let me tell you now. You may have read [illegible] the newspapers about the Celebrated "Minnesota Land [illegible]". The last Congress you know passed a Bill giving a large grant of land to Minnesota for a great Railroad Line. There was to have been a great R.R. Co. to build the road 400 miles long. C. B. Mason was to have been Chief Engineer. J. S. Metcalf [illegible] had a good place in it — & have gone on this Fall & Winter to making the first Surveys &c. as soon as he could get away from this. Well the Bill as passed by Congress confirmed the whole project, and established it as, in the present depressed state of R.R. Affairs, about the only large project to go vigorously forward this Winter. But — there was some roguery about transcribing the Bill - after it was passed it was altered in some particulars — which made a good deal of noise about it — and Congress finally repealed the Bill altogether. thus stopping the whole project for the present. Mr Mason says however it will doubtless pass again the next Session, & the the Road go on; and the said J. S. Metcalf shall have a place in it. But it is to be expected that the said Metcalf will have a Vacation between now & then. The Pressure in the Money Market you know is very severe now. The funds of this Co. you know are abundant, but then when money is worth 18 to 24 per cent in New York, moneyed men do not like to use money even on the best R.R. Investments. So Our folks wish to retrench [illegible] as convenient — [illegible] year [illegible] whenever they can conveniently. So that I shall [illegible] [illegible]

[illegible] Do you [illegible] and my [illegible].
It will be rather a short time to come out so far for — but then we could take our time, and go back at our leisure.
Now think of it, and decide what you will do. Consider the matter and write all you think about it.
The thing has done me considerable good, really gone some ways towards restoring my good confidence in human nature, or in Mankind.
You know it was supposed that R. W. Mason had lost very heavily by the failure & defalcation of Robert Schuyler. He supposed so himself — until he went east this summer; when he found in Robert Schuyler's safe a Package marked "Private Papers of R. B. Mason" — sealed up, which was found to contain fifty or sixty thousand dollars in U. S. Stocks & Bonds (Mr Mason's property, deposited with [illegible] or loaned) and which he supposed Gone! and a note to Mr Mason saying that whatever he had been guilty of towards others, he would try to be just to Mr Mason. Now isn't that worth while? It really did me good. Just think how hard it would have been, if he had been as expected ruined by his best friend, his whole property lost, and at his age to begin the world as it were anew — with his large family — a very expensive family, and with their habits of expense formed — that is a great thing. For you & I now the loss or gain of property is a slight affair. We can do without it — and not hurt us. But say 20 years hence if we should live with a family around us, living in luxury, and habits all formed and fixed — the loss of property then is a dreadful thing.
Mr J. C. Smith has got back — will probably be at Big Stanley

Big Muddy this winter. Rowley & Smith's Co. will go through with their business, as a firm, and going from the 2d Div. probably [illegible] [illegible] months or by first of next.

Hoel will go to his farm. Post to Cairo probably. Don't [illegible] Big Muddy and Rowley I know not where.

[illegible] [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] fast. [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] Diamond [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] [illegible]. That [illegible] I [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] [illegible]. [illegible] though I can [illegible] [illegible], [illegible] the German [illegible] is [illegible], and [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] [illegible].

I guess though I [illegible] go to the Camp meeting this [illegible] [illegible] —.

[illegible] [illegible] write again [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] [illegible]

[illegible] [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] —

[illegible] [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] [illegible]

[illegible] [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] [illegible]

[illegible] [illegible] — [illegible] [illegible]

[illegible] [illegible] [illegible]

{Isaac. Ducoign Sept. 7. 1854}
{Dunbarton Sept. 16. 1854}

Ducoign Perry Co. Ill. Sept. 7. 1854

My Dearest Ettie

I have before me two of your last letter really unanswered. One of them however I received before I wrote to you last but did not have it with me when I wrote. I went to Centralia on Saturday last with Col. Mason and Presdt. Burrall, and remaining there over Sunday wrote a sort of letter to you, & sent to St Louis Monday Morning. Sunday, after writing that letter I went off to a Camp Meeting, Meth. Epis. on Fulton Creek, 3 or 4 Miles from Centralia. It did not amount to much — but comparatively few present on account of the Drouth, &c. &c. (They were hauling water to drink about two Miles) No feed &c. I heard an ignorant fellow (Old Sub Contractor on R.R. "preach a funerel" for a child which died last Spring". Very worthless. Afterwards some remarks by the Elder, which were better. Then the Communion — but somehow the receiving the Sacrament kneeling, as the Methodists do — (East that is not Essential, but here it is the Rule) does not suit me. It has a savor of Priesthood about it. I should think the Officiating officer Bishop rather than Elder.
The Camp Meeting — was a bit of Pulpit of rough sticks & boards under a tree with flatted logs ranged around and all about the Tents — some of the Big Wagons of the Country with their Cloth Covers — movers wagons some wooden Camps like those you saw at Peter Hagler's meeting house — Some tents made of Bed Blankets, or only Cotton Cloth & Sheets &c. &c.

I staid at the Camp Meeting till about Sun Set (It was to be kept up that Evening and two days longer) Then rode on to Little Muddy 25 or 30 Miles.
Oh! You can imagine nothing in a New England Climate at all equal to the Nights here nowadays. A Moonlight that puts one in mind of the Italian's claim that "The Moon of Naples was better than the English Sun" An Atmosphere — I will give it up — there is nothing I can compare it to. For Mildness & dryness possibly One might mention the atmosphere of a room heated by an Airtight Stove in the most favorable circumstances. It seems so dry, so pure, so Clear — not a particle of Moisture — In fact we have almost forgot there is such a thing. Just imagine Nights so warm that you are perfectly comfortable with the least — or thinnest possible clothing, or none at all — and yet — after you are used to it — not at all too warm — and at the same time so pure & dry — as that there has not been a particle of dew for months.
Monday, at Little Muddy & Track till P.M. then down here.
Tuesday, A.M. here, P.M. to DeSoto.
Wednesday ~ Big Muddy — Here at night
Thursday ~ Here, Up the Track, trying to settle for two fat oxen the Train killed yesterday &c. &c. fuller of business all the time I am, than any bag in this country is of potatatoes this year I know — for there is not any. In fact, with excess of head work — my head fairly aches now — and I will Stop & go to Bed ———

Yesterday I got a letter from Mother of Aug. 27th announcing a little neice at Bangor; and the good prospects of Mother & Child. Very good news. You probably heard it through before I did.
I received a letter ~~last~~ this week, three days since from Eliab & Maria of 18th Aug. I am somewhat afraid for the business of Eliab & Samuel nowadays. There is an extreme pressure in the money market at present. Mr Burrall said as bad as he ever knew; the very best paper 1½ per cent per Month &c. If it is as bad in Bangor, I am afraid they may not be able to weather it. They have not a great deal of Capital you know. And Samuel's logs have not come down, so that they have not seen what they expected. Their Backers I suppose are wealthy — but then in such monetary crises, the men of large invested capital may be no better off if their funds are not at call.
Well it is rather busy times just now, and I have plenty else to write & do — and so I will stop writing to my dear wife for this time. Probably write again on Sunday

Sincerely
Isaac S.

{Isaac September 16, 1854
{Duceyne
Dunbarton " 18, 1854

Sabbath Morning, September 10th 1854

It is a morning of most brilliant & unclouded beauty. The Sun rises up into the sky blazing in majesty, and the broad prairie is resplendent in its glare. Far on the western horizon are various bits of straggling irregular clouds, like the scattered squadrons of a vanquished army, and, even while watched, fast disappearing in their eager flight. The Sun does certainly look like a mighty conqueror. (maybe partly on account of our personal experience of his prowess) But this morning his rays are simply glorious, not destructive. Probably, his enemies being conquered & driven away, he is just now good natured - possibly magnanimous. Yesterday was full of clouds; with gusty winds, and threatened rain. But Old Sol has fairly triumphed once more, and the only result is a cooler not a dryer atmosphere. This morning the thermometer is down to 72° F. and I presume many are complaining of cold. Yesterday it was 98° F. in the Shade The day before 100° F. or more. and 97° only just before Sunset. It is astonishing how the hot dry weather does continue here. There has even yet been no rain to even begin to moisten the earth. I have been very busy for ~~two~~ two or three weeks past, rather unusually so: There is quite a pile of unanswered letters lying before me; from Mother, Lucy, Eliab, Maria. Anne I have not got any letter from. To my dearest, my wife I have written since receiving any letter from her; though her last letters are really unanswered. I wrote last Sunday from Centralia. And again in the midst of the busy week, but I guess without replying to her kind letters and I am sure I cannot ~~now~~ tell what I wrote.

You ask, Ettie, about Abby Wilson. I have not seen her since I came back here. Her Brother has come back from California, and I guess she stays at home now. I have been intending ever since I got back to go over there sometime to see Abby. but somehow there has always seemed to be something else to employ me, and I have never got over there; and now we are getting on with the Track Laying I keep my horse at Little Muddy, so I have while here no chance to ride. The Parasol I have never heard any thing of. It was not left in the room when I went back there. Mrs Keyes never said any thing about it. I told G. M. Hinckley, if Abby ever was over there to offer her V or X worth of a dress and charge it to me. Do not know whether he has done it.

Oh Ettie, Dearest Ettie, it makes me glad that you want to come out here again to be here with me. I know you do want to. But, as I wrote before, think it all over, and decide understandingly that you want to come out this Fall; and I will surely find some way to get you out here, as soon as it is prudent to do so. It would not be strange after the long drouth & extreme heat of the summer, if the Fall should be a very sickly one. In fact it is now already I expect in many places. There is very much more sickness than there was last year. At Little Muddy you know it was quite healthy last year. Now most of the men have got away from there — but very many of those who are left there are complaining. But we will see how it becomes. & I will try to find a good place for you at Centralia perhaps, when the sickness abates.

I am sorry about your Mother's anxiety & nervousness. (What about Jenny?) It would do your Mother good to travel about more, and see more company than she has done. She needs good society.

"The Old Man's Home" I do not know. What Adams is the author?
The "Precious Little Advocate" comes regularly. And about 20 other papers - Illinois Country papers sent by R.R. Co. more than I have opportunity to read very much.
You ask what Clothes I wear nowadays. Well a variety. All rather thin fabrics I assure you - various coats and pants that you never saw. One thing though - you remember those coarse crash linen pants that you and Abby I guess made last summer. Those have been really valuable to me - have worn admirably have been washed perhaps twenty times apiece - and are hardly worn out yet - and grow whiter & handsomer every time they are washed. In fact they have been all summer, my best pants, though I have bought three or four others pairs this summer. I must have more like them - They would be cheaper than ordinary summer pants we buy, if they cost $10.00 per pair. Sometimes I wear a vest & a neck cloth, and sometimes I do not. To day being cooler I do; and a pair of linen pants white a frequent tiny brown stripe up & down. In short should be tolerably respectably dressed - if my shoes boots were blacked. One vexatious thing - the nice pretty silk handkerchief, you sent me in a letter from Bangor I lost - left it in the Dining Room of Planter's House, as I left St Louis tother day.
Mr Bird got home about two weeks since - preached last Sabbath - but I did not hear him & have not seen him - Last Sabbath being at Centralia.
It considerable trouble for me to get down there to Church now; My horses are left up to Little Muddy nowadays; Today I had to get George Smith to send his buggy & horse up here for me and then to bring me back. Rather a costly way of getting to church

Mr Bird was there apparently as fat & hearty & good natured as ever. Mrs B. however is quite unwell. Mrs Sprague I suspect is better — at any rate she was out to Meeting, though evidently feeble. Did I tell you that "Polly Ami" lived there this summer. Mr Bird did not preach but Elder Taylor, the Bible Society Agent; and after a tolerable — though rather loud — Sermon, (E. T. is I believe a Methodist), upon "letting your light shine before men", (especially by giving them Bibles); came the Annual Meeting of the Dubuque Auxiliary Bible Society — election of Officers — same as last year — and a Collection — which cost this Individual Five dollars ——

By the way I believe I have not yet read my French all of it for today. Last Sunday I had no French Testament at hand though Aspern kindly loaned me a German one, (but that hardly answered ( and also a course of scripture reading in French — but that contained not the Lesson for the day I was so busy through the week that I only read one Chapter in the whole week towards making up the Sabbath's lack. And this morning I only read one the long 7th Actes. Let us see where am I — Jean hath 21 Chapitres. July hath 8, July 10 — August 8 — Last Sunday 2 The Lesson for today then is the VIII & IX Actes. Is that right by your Chronology? What time in the day do you read French. I very frequently read one Chapter as I lay on my bed before rising in the morning. The other along the P.M. or after Church Do you invite Mother & Lucy to visit Dunbarton this Fall? I guess they talk of it. I have bought of Rowley Smith & Co. a Bedstead, Mattress, Pillows &c. of the best. I have found my own bed all summer on a camp cot — but it wouldn't do when the weather becomes cooler; and then I wanted something better to offer my friends.
Did I tell you that I might have to go to Chicago a week on the Final Settlement with Rowley Smith & Co?

Kisses to D.M. & Love to all especially yrself

Yrs Yrown Isaac S.

(Duquoin Sept 17, 1854
(Duae —
[illegible] Sept 22, 1854

Sabbath. Sept. 17. 1854. Duquoin Ill.

Dearest Wife

Last Tuesday as I went North I received your letter of Aug. 26th 30th — and read it as I rode along on the Engine. Yesterday I received your letter of Sept. 1 – 5th as I came South, and read it as I rode on the Hand Car. With the last came also the Daguerreotype, for which I thank you very much. I think it is a very good one. But I thought you were to get a large one. I do not believe this cost $10.00 Perhaps though you had not so much money to spare. I ought to have sent you some more before now. However this is worth more than X or XX to me

It seems the letters are not all regular exactly — if they all arrive at last. The sometimes get misplaced in their order. Yours I believe have never come to me so, the last first; but they are sometimes delayed and two come together. You wonder Saturday nights whether Charles is with me. He always is. Always in ~~this~~ little Office out of Work hours — seated on one of the high stools at the big table just behind my back as I sit at My desk. He has his bed fixed up up stairs; and lives as well as work in this building; going out only to his Meals. You wonder whether I read, write, or think. Well some considerable of each. If I have but just come in on Saturday night I have various letters, statements & reports to read; and not a little to write in arranging & finishing up the week's work. Of course there there is some thinking about it all. — And when it is through with — I am very apt to be tired — as business Man ought to be — and go to bed in a [illegible] way. Here — Remem-

ber

Do not take it from this that you have any right to be tired Saturday night, or any other time. I said a business Man. Any man who is paid by others for toil of muscle, or of brain, ought perhaps to be tired a little on Saturday Night. In the Six days which belong to somebody else — Master or Corporation — R.R. Co. & its interests — he must earn his wages. But the Seventh day is the Sabbath of the Lord. God's Day is given to him as a day of Rest from the labors of the week; and I think it is good for this one to spend part of it in writing to his Ettie!

I have been hardly knowing what to expect on the score of that hairy picture I sent you. I am glad you do not dislike so very much as to be sorry I sent it. But I want nearly as much to know what Father says about it. I had a great mind to write you not to show it to him. You, or he himself, must write to me what is his comment upon it. I shall shave before I go East for fear if not, that I should not be admitted if he came to the door!

You like the ✱ in the Independent. So do I. So do everybody. — "And C." So do not I very especially; — that is not more than I do very many other things

The Daguerreotype is good — very good — for a little one. What dress is it you had on? One I never saw I guess. How do you do up your hair nowadays? Tye it up in a Ribbon, isn't it?

You said Mother was writing me. I expect I will get that by the next Mail. I did get a peice of Letter from Father for which I am much obliged. Now laugh at me, do! I wrote so far and opened your last letter to get the bit letter from "Father", — which I had only hastily glanced over as I rode on the Rail — and behold it was

from Mother instead of from Father. Well I am equally obliged for it. Hope they will both write often

You say the Thermometer at 84° F. — and rather uncomfortable. Really — it happens to be just 84° F. here today; but we do not complain at all. Some do say it is rather cold and all are more than usually warmly dressed. Yesterday or a day before — after the sudden change of weather, I got on woolen clothes for the first time for — I do not know when. Thermometer down to 84 in the Middle of the day! Till thus such a thing was unheard of here I think.

There has been no rain of any account here yet. A Shower of half an hour or so on Wednesday last they say — but not to amount to much, though at Centralia & above there there was a heavy rain on Monday last, and again some on Wednesday & Wed. night: so that the Drouth is over there. Here it still rages almost unabated. ..........

We got letters from Lucy & Eliab yesterday.

I do not know when I shall go East. I am very busy nowadays. There seems to be not much real cessation of the old ordinary business — and considerable of New; growing out of the Centralia Matters, and of the Track laying; and various running arrangements: And then the settling up and final arrangement of the affairs of Rowley, Smith & Co. comes on; and is likely to be no small job. In the winding up of R. S & Co. affairs I may have to go to Chicago — perhaps in October. If so I may be able to go East at that time. But if I go East I want to bring back my Ellie & Mayo: And I am afraid I will have no possible place to put them. I do not know but I will have to build a house on purpose for them. There seems to be no place any where now. At Centralia or here would be the best

At Centralia there seems to be no place for any thing just now. The Greatest crowding you ever saw until we can get our Big Passenger House up. Then there will be room enough for every body. When that will be we cannot tell. We are hurrying it as fast as possible — but it is a big house & grows slowly. Here there is no sort of a chance for any body to really live — except in my camp style here in the Freight House. And as for Old Du Quoin you might about as well be in New Hampshire for any way I could get there now a days.

It is said that the Minnesota & North Western R.R. Co. are proposing to dispute the right of Congress to repeal the celebrated Land Bill — on the ground I suppose that the Act once passed, Rights were vested in third parties which Congress itself had no right to take away.
They'll build the Road sometime — And sometime I'll have a good place there or somewhere else: but I guess we will have a resting spell a while next year. I guess it wont hurt us much either. When we havn't any thing else to do — we will take comfort.
I hope Lucy will come & visit you this fall
My best love to all the folks — especially to Ettie & Mayo — Good Night
J. Metcalf —

Dearest Ettie

I did have a little bit of Ague last week. No do not be troubled about it. I told Charles not to write to the folks in Maine about it. and I thought I would not write it even to you at first, and wrote the whole letter without mentioning it. You know how afraid all Eastern people are of the Ague, what a dreadful thing all think it; and it hardly seemed worth the while to disturb & frighten everybody, and make them think me horrible sick when I was not. But I thought it was not hardly right to keep even that a secret from my Ettie, even though it did not amount to any thing. I would not like to have her serve me so And so I put in this Postscript. You see I made myself sick Eating too many peaches last Sunday. Bought some for a dollar

a bushel on Saturday; besides eating lots of Mrs Skinners unripe Pears when I was down to Church.
I was really extremely gluttonous for me: but it would all have been well enough if I could have taken care of myself. But I am lately very much pressed with business. Last Week was Paytime everywhere. And I had to be everywhere & do every thing Mitchell being closely confined to the Track. Monday I went down to Big Muddy, and was about there till Tues. Noon. very unusually exposed to fatigue - walking much - and the excessive hot Sun. Tuesday P.M. up the Line & to Little Muddy - do. Wed. there & up to Richmond, similarly exposed. That afternoon not well & feverish - but must do the business & went up to Centralia that night.
"The Next day very sudden Change of weather, after rain - and I had no thick Clothes there.

So very carelessly on Friday
as I rode along from Centralia
South, I had a nice little
chill sitting quite cosily in
my wagon, and after I got
to Richmond a little fever
to match. But I fixed up
my business & came down to
Little Muddy; and yesterday
down here. Today took two
or three doses of Quinine, and
kept of the return of the un
pleasant visitor.
Well it was not a tenth part as bad
as the tooth ache Charles had
the other day; or as bad as the
head ache many a one has
and thinks nothing of: But
it was "the Ague" and of course
was dreadful.
However I do not intend to have
it any more at all on no count..
I will be careful Ettie.
Your own J. S.

Ettie

{Isaac, Ducoign Sept 24, 1854
{Dumbarton Oct 5, 1854 –

Ducoign, Sept. 24. 1854

My Very Dear Wife

Your nice letter of Sept. 5 – 12th came to hand on Thursday 21st; rather better time than usual. Letters I believe are commonly longer in getting here than in getting away. Letters from Chicago rarely reach here in less than ten days; while my letters usually get there in four or five days. Your Mailing letters on Tuesday instead of Thursday I think will make an improvement. My letters seem to reach you in "batches" — four in one week! only half baked ones I guess mostly.

I write regularly every Sunday you know; and have once or twice written something between times. Oh Ettie, I am so glad of that Daguerreotype — My own nice sweet Ettie: It does me good every time I look at it, which is — sometimes. That face and the little one; are my treasures. I am rejoiced that you have had rain. I presume there has been rain most every where through the country before this. In this region the rain has not been extended yet; or at least, not every where. It has seemed to come in strips & occasionally. There was some good rain two weeks or more since in some places within 50 miles; but not a drop here really until last Tuesday Then it rained finely just here for five or six hours; but there was hardly any only six or eight miles North. Almost none at Mr Hawkins.

You say Mayo likes some people at first sight; while he will have nothing to do with others: Now is his taste good, his

his judgment correct & approved in his decisions upon the characters of people. I think it quite an interesting enquiry. His likes & dislikes appear to be intuitive; how are they well founded? So you are really glad of your DuQuoin Novel Readings! Who would have thought that of your father's child! By the way how does he like Mrs Stowe's Sunny Memories?

I have been sort of sorry ever since I last wrote that I said any thing to you about my little bit of ague the other day. It did not amount to any thing: and perhaps I ought not to have written to trouble you about it. I am as well as need to be ever since. It was only a natural result of a slight indigestion, and too much exposure & fatigue after it. I had got over it entirely when I wrote to you before; and am better & better ever since.

I have not read much this Summer. In fact I have had very little leizure to read at all. Mr Mitchell's sickness, and then Crosly's, have made me more than usually hurried. Did I tell you that Crosly had had the ague. He gets a chill occasionally still I believe, had one on Friday at least; but I guess not very bad. Does not seem to mind it very much. But it not good for much for work. This of course makes it harder for Mitchell - and Mitchell having hardly got as well as usual (in fact he had one chill last week) I have to do more to relieve him from business than I otherwise should. I have read Cosmos but a little this Summer.

So you think it is not best to come out here this Fall. Oh dear! What shall I do with myself? I do not know

but you think wisely though
You ask if I have read certain books. Autobiography of Hugh Miller, I have given to Mitchell. "Hard Times" I will send to you I think. You can read it, and decide whether it is or not a libel upon all Engineers, and all practical men. I will hardly determine it.
We got a letter from Anne yesterday - the first since she went East in June. She says the Dr De Witt has been a good deal worried about Percie because they had no regular Physician to attend him: And now is very much pleased that they have called on Dr McRuer.
I expect Eliab & Maria, are going to move into a house he has rented farther down Centre Street same St. as Samuels but nearer down town. They wrote that Maria's Sister, whom they expected to live with them, was quite sick.
I have been down to Old DuQuoin today to Church, with Mr Rowley. (My horses are up to Little Muddy more convenient for me, going up to there on train) So I hired Mr Smith's horse & buggy. Mr Baird preached, very well for him. Text "Straight is the way &c. Mr Baird grows fatter and fatter, is really very corpulent - pursy. He has received a call to go to Mt Vernon Jefferson Co. to settle; and another to Naples on the Illinois River. I should think he would be discouraged at DuQuoin. Congregation Small. The Bell was stolen a few weeks ago. taken down & fairly carried off, they know not whither! We went to Dr Wall's to dinner; very pleasant; farewell visit of Mr Rowley who expects to leave this part of the State this week.
We returned here between 2 & 3 P. M. Since then I have written a long letter to Sister Anne.

The Doctor Wall has not yet decided where to go to. Has been thinking to move to Jacksonville - mostly for convenience of Educating his Children - but I guess decides that he cannot leave his property in this part of ~~the~~ State - But can find no house to move into this fall. I expect they are requested to stay & keep the house this fall for the Seminary but hardly want to do so. Miss Paine is coming out early in Oct. bringing ~~two~~ other Teachers with her.

I do not know what the prospects of the School are - guess the great agencies have amounted to ~~two~~ a few hundred dollars.

I judge Mrs Bird is better - out at Church.

" " Sprague worse not " "

Ephraim Root is about the same - is out about some.

Did I tell you that Mrs Horace Smith had a fine daughter. Horace you know works here, steadiest Carpenter I have here, his wife was at Mrs Fulton's. Child born on Sunday. Horace did not lose any time on his work! Thomas Reed's wife had a Child also. He lost only half a day's time!

Mrs Fulton is coming to keep our boarding house here as soon as Mrs Smith gets well. It is now kept by Mrs Guittean and Josephine Fulton. who do much better than Ed. Smith's wife.

Oh how can I stay away so much longer from my Ettie & my baby. It is too bad. But take good care of yourselves. By the way I am afraid you live to economically at your fathers - do not eat meat & good things enough. I will send you another XX pretty soon. Have every thing you want. Affectionately Isaac.

Ducoign. Isaac. Oct. 1, 1854
Tunbridge bet. 1-10, 1854

Ducoign, October 1st 1854.

Dearest Ettie

This last week I did not get any letter at all from you. So I have not to reply to today. Letters have come so regularly ~~lately~~ that I was quite disappointed when none came yesterday. The Diligence came down (or rather up. It comes down from Mt Hawkins in the Morning; goes to the old Inn, and is brought back up here before noon) and brought me no letter. The Mt Hawkins P.M. is directed to send along every thing in Friday night's Mail on Saturday Morning. But I thought he might have neglected it; and so sent a Messenger to the Mt Hawkins P.O. in the afternoon — but alas! he brought nothing. Well. I shall probably get two this week instead.
It is partly a rainy day; and I have not tried to go down to Church today. It is some ways to go to Church. I could get along very well when the weather was not too very hot — as long as I had my horses here. But now, when it is rather necessary for me to keep my horses off up the line, it is rather inconvenient. I do get G. S. Smith's Horse & Buggy, but it is troublesome both to them & myself. So, especially as it rains about half the time today; I am staid at home. I have been reading the Independent, about all the forenoon — of Sept. 21. I believe. The one containing the account of the Meeting of The American Board. And it has really done me a great deal of good. It is better than any thing for a great while past. And after the late — <u>inaction</u> — of the

of the great Presbyterian General Assemblies — even the New School Assembly you remember ignoring the Slavery question altogether) it is really refreshing.
The Speeches of Drs Bacon, Dwight & others really read as if some New England Clergymen at least were not lacking in what Sumner ~~defined~~ called the great desideratum for a States-man — Backbone — Backbone — Backbone. And after all perhaps so much credit is not due to most of them. They are only driven or crowded along to their present position by the pressure of public opinion behind them — rather before them.
I have company today — Charles M. Dupuy — a very fine looking man who appeared here yesterday, with a letter of introduction from Mr Mason, desiring me to show him every attention, if possible spending some time with him. He is a Capitalist I judge; has been in the East India trade in N. Y. City is largely interested in Coal Mining &c. He comes here to examine this region, with view to establishment of Mining operations here. He is a very pleasant comfort-able sort of a fellow who has seen something of the world and knows how to take it. Take a Man who has lived half his life like a prince — at the Astor House — and his bottle of wine at the Table and everything else; and he is much more likely to adapt himself pleasantly to any inconveniences of back woods life, than one — a half bred man — as most are.
Mr Dupuy has a wife & a little boy about Mayo's age, that he has not seen for a whole Month! Never left them, so long, before since he was married, and does n't mean to — again.
What do you think of it? What do you think of Duluth at the Centre of a great Mining Region? A great dirty smutty coaly place — another Pittsburg — a namesake of our boy Duluth M.!

I have been pretty busy the past week, as usual. I believe I wrote you about going to Duvoign to Church last Sabbath — Mr Ford's sermon his two calls — to Mt Vernon, Jefferson Co, & to Naples & Canton. calling at Mr Keyes', and dining at Dr Walls': Mr Rowley's farewell calls in this part of the state. &c. Monday, here in Office. Tuesday up on train. At Little Muddy Final settlement with Rowley Smith & Co. &c. Wednesday. with Rowley, Smith, Post, Noel and Ellis, to Centralia. Thursday, separation. Post going after his wife, Noel Home. Smith to Utica N.Y. Rowley to Chicago. Perhaps I shall have to go to Chicago next week, meet the m... all returned there — with Mr Mason. After which Smith goes to Big Muddy to spend Fall & Winter, Post probably to Cairo, Noel to his farm. Rowley don't know. And I — if I only had my Ettie & Mayo, would be very comfortable here for a few months longer. I do want to see my dear Ettie, and my darling boy.

Do you suppose all my land in Illinois is worth almost nothing at all. The last Congress passed a graduation bill, reducing the price of public lands according to the time they have been in Market. In all the South part of Illinois (except along the R.R. line where the lands are not affected) the lands having been in Market above 30 years, are at the Minimum price, only 12½ cts per acre — to the actual settler: 320 acres for $40.00 This for a week or two past has made an enormous rush at the Land Offices. Every body is striving for their 160 or 320 acres of Land. However the man who perjures himself for $40. worth of land, as many doubtless do — certainly pays dear for it. After all it may only affect to get all the government lands sold off out of market, and out of the way. and then the other lands will soon rise. I believe that is the view of our R.R. people — who think that the 12½ ct. land will not permanently injure the value of theirs.

I shall look anxiously for letters this week expect to get two by Saturday. I keep thinking what if you or Mayo are sick — But then I know you would let me know as soon as possible. You will take good care of your selves for my sake, will you not? Ettie, Dear Ettie, I do want to see you both — and only to think of waiting until January — three or four long months longer.

However the time is slipping away fast.

I hope Mother & Lucy will conclude to visit Dunbarton this Fall. You must urge it, if you want them to come. I have been writing to them. I had no letters from Bangor either last week. Am anxious to hear about Pierce.

Much love

J. S.

Isaac. DuQuoin Oct. 22 1854
[illegible] Oct. 31. 1854 —

Du Quoin. Sabbath. Oct. 22nd 54.

My Dearest Ettie

It is a dull rainy Sunday. There has been frost here considerable. The Prairie is of a dull grayish brown, and the Sky or clouds are of a dull brownish gray, & is pretty much alike, and both decidedly sombre. It is most night, but I have not done any thing yet today hardly. Yes I have read the Independent through Oct. 5 & 12, which I had not before seen. I have read three Chapters in Acts. I was not here last Sabbath, and had no French Testament to read. I have laid down & dozed some, and some I has sat & thought and wished and wished to see my Ettie and my Mayo. I hope they are both well & happy to day."!!

I have been at Centralia most of the past week — arrived here from there on Monday night and went up there again on Wednesday, returning on Saturday night at dark.

I wrote a letter to you there last Sunday, which was mailed perhaps at Central City; and another on Thursday or Friday, which was probably mailed at St Louis. I had occasion

occasion the Lend Griers in to St Louis on ~~Saturday~~ Friday and sent it to P.O. by him.

I did a little expect to find another letter from you when I got back here yesterday, but it seems hardly to have had time to get around. It is almost vexatious to have letters so very long in coming. To think that I do not Now know whether you and Mayo were sick or well two whole weeks ago; that it will probably be two whole weeks longer before I shall know whether you are sick or well at this present time. Does it not seem hard?

Well, it will not last a great while. And after this we will try to keep together, will we not?

I would have liked to go down to Old DuQuoin to church to-day; It is some time since I have been there — last Sabbath I was at E. Salia. The Sabbath before I arrived here from there at 3 A.M. and slept most of the day and did not go out at all.

It is very inconvenient getting down there to Church or at any time

time now. My horses being away I leave them of late usually at Richmond. And it is too far to walk 4 miles; and a good deal of inconvenience to others as well as myself to get there. When I have gone down of late I have had to get Geo. Smith to send a horse and Buggy clear from there up here after me.
Edwin Smith, & Horace Smith have each got a little house & moved up here. Mrs Fulton has moved into our boarding house here; and now Mrs McCoy instead of Mrs Guitteau lives with her. Dr Ray, whom you perhaps remember — moved to Old DuQuoin last Spring before you left I think — bought Mr Keyes horse & buggy — Dr Ray has moved up here. Dr Wall I believe talks of it — maybe only talks with him. I guess he does not know himself what he will do as yet. He talks of going to Jacksonville to live. And he talks of going into wholesale mercantile business at Duquoin Station.
I have not yet heard of Miss Paine's arrival. I believe other teachers were expected to come with her. It will be much too bad for Miss to have to stay there and

to stay there and keep big boarding house all winter. You know they undertook to move up here the building that was my old Office for a Methodist Seminary, but it broke down and is left on the road. Edwin Smith's house was moved safely, and is now the residence of Horace Smith & family. Mr Keys is getting materials on the ground for a brick house here at Ducoigns.

Charley is about deciding, I think to go home next month. I wish I could go I cannot have any Ettie & Baby out here, I am getting anxious to go to them — and yet when I get through here I shall be out of business — I do not know how I shall stand it. What shall we do? No matter about you and the Mayo — there is glad room enough for you anywhere — but just of my being about in everybody's wall all winter!

However I guess that wont prevent my comming to see you as soon as I can! Most Lovingly

H Metcalf

Oct-25-1854
Dubuque—

Lincoln Oct. 25, 1854

My Dearest Ettie

Your very excellent good letter of Oct. 9th came to hand yesterday; I had been down to Big Muddy, and got back at noon to find the letter. Though I might have been sober or stupid in the forenoon the letter of course put me in good humor and I enjoyed the afternoon hugely working away in the office busily, but thinking happily of certain other people. Today I am going to Centralia to meet Mr Mason there tonight, and return with him tomorrow morning. I have got my dinner, and got all ready — papers all filed & packed in carpet bag and all ready to start, and while waiting for the train to come along I sit down to my desk to write a bit to my Dear Wife whom I so much want to see; but at the same time can so much enjoy the mere thinking of!

Our business is getting along now swimmingly — laying more than 1/2 a mile of track per day; going to get the track to Centralia in about two weeks.
And work at Centralia too is prospering finely. As the cool weather comes on men are more healthy, and can do more & better work.
Rev. Mr Wood has been here talking and interrupting me an hour or two this forenoon — His Murphysboro Church is mainly gone I guess: said there wasn't a single Male Member left. He has just moved up to DuQuoin, intends to preach at Carbondale.
Mr Bird is just now moving to Mt Vernon. I am glad for he sake he is well away from DuQuoin.
If Mr Wood were not so entirely hated by DuQuoin People it would be very convenient for him to preach at DuQuoin.

I hear nothing from the Semminary at present.
I have been urging upon Mr Wood the importance of doing something at Centralia — He may go there and preach once in four weeks this Summer. That may be better than nothing. But there really ought to be some good man there.
I would do something for that myself.
My health is very good now. The hair is coming.
Why was I stupid yesterday? I found the Lamplighter at De Soto the night before I had never really read it — and read it all night about. However I feel all the better for that since I believe I do feel better for losing of my sleep occasionally.

There is getting to be some
brilliancy of colors in these
Western forests — in fact I
suppose they are very fine
now as seen through the
dim Autumnal Prairie haze
But you know I have not
a great taste for beauty
of <u>Color</u>. Beauty of form
is what I look at. And
no colors are more beau=
tiful to me than Green & Blue,
You know I ~~always~~ told you
next to those I prefered <u>Brown</u>
Get a new velvet Bonnet &
Every thing else. I intended
to put a XX in this — but find
I have none except of Ill. & Ind.
money which might trouble
you — Well I'll keep the train
waiting Aff. Isaac S.

Oct 29th

I wish I had a few pieces of your apples here. We do not get any good ones here this Fall. Perhaps I shall get there before they are all gone. You tell me not to work too hard. Well I have for a few days past, but I was in good condition, and it has not hurt. I sometimes think it does me good, once in a while to lose sleep, or get really tired. I presume by tomor- I will feel just as well as ever. I am far more afraid for Mitchell than for myself. He is worth everything to me; the most valuable man all things considered that I know of. What could I have done the past week without him. Did I tell you Mr Bird had moved to Mt Vernon, Jefferson Co. I had forgotten to tell you of Miss Paine's arrival; Came via St Louis & Centra= lia and down on our Train on Thursday Morning, the morning be fore the accident. Two other Ladies

with her, (perhaps equally homely:
One very tall Miss Smith; the other
quite short, but I forget her name.
A Rev Mr Smith came with them
who was to preach at DuQuoin today;
Perhaps may settle there! An
Eastern clergyman as I understood
coming west for his health. A
little boy also of their party.
What occasions your father's Diarrhea?
Can it not be cured? One of those I.C.
R.R. Directors here lately would give
$250.000.00 freely for the power to eat
a good dinner without hurting him.
He is a confirmed Dyspeptic.
What good does his great wealth
do him?
Oh Ettie, we are thankful, are we not,
that our Rail Way Accident was no
worse. I am thankful for Mitchell's
Escape, and that of our Engine
Men. Their Escape was almost
miraculous. And then for myself
how I happened not to be in the Train

If I had been I might have been killed or hurt. How providential it all was. Then those men who were killed. With all three it seemed only accidently that they happened to be killed. But were they on purpose? Then there were a lot of passengers at De Soto wishing to come up. We were late, in great haste, and I ordered the train run by without stopping which in all probality just saved their lives. There were ~~two or three~~ women & several children who would almost surely have been killed if they had got on the train. They were very much disappointed at not going, and some of the men very angry about it.

We got an excellent letter from Lucy and Mother yesterday. Percy it seems is much better. Lucy says he eats half the time, & cries for something to eat the other half!

Mr Rider is very unfortunate is he not, and then I think that

that that is probably only the beginning
Lucy & Mother seem to admire
greatly the Daguerreotype of little
Mayo. Is it the same one you
hesitated to send it was
so poor an one.
Oh Ettie the splendor of the forests
here now is very great; but there
is another thing to me very far
superior. The Pigeons, the Pigeons!
I wish I could convey to your mind
my feeling of the wonder & sublim-
ity of the miles upon sq miles. I
had almost said cubic miles
of Pigeons I have seen here of
late. Miles & miles positively dar=
kened by their swift wings; and
the sound. Nothing but the waves
of old ocean can equal it.
But I have written enough
and perhaps more.
Love & God's blessing
Isaac F M

Isaac, Ducoigne. Oct 29. 1854
Dunbarton Nov. 8. 1854

Ducoign Perry Co. Ill. Oct. 29, 1854

My Dearest Wife.

My Ettie. It is most eleven o'clock this Sabbath morning. I have just got fairly seated but a little while; and about the first time since I can hardly tell. It has been a sad time here. We have had a dreadful Rail Way accident and loss of life here. Three men were instantly killed. It was just at dark Thursday night Oct. 26th. Another Thomas Taylor Brakeman (whom I suppose you have seen at DuQuoin), died at 5 o'clock yesterday evening. No others seriously hurt. Young Taylor is buried today, and I should now be at the funeral if it did not rain so very hard, and I were not already so nearly used up & tired out. Mr Mitchell was in the most exposed situation of any one on the Train, and his escape seems almost miraculous. He is almost uninjured, only very lame & sore across the Chest from the Shock. I believe I wrote to you on Wednesday - but do not know whether I sent the letter or not. I was then waiting for our Train to go North to meet Mr Mason. Our Engine was out of order and delayed so long that I only got to Richmond at night instead of to Centralia. And met Mr Mason, with Messrs Osborn & Griswold of N. Y. Directors I. C. R. R. Co. at Richmond. As it happened I talked about all night with Mr Mason perhaps sleeping two hours. We all got on the Train at 5 Thursday morning, and transferred our dignified passengers to Mr Watson's Train on the other side of Muddy at 11 A.M. The passage down was very slow but noisy. The Engine working very badly on acc't of a displaced valve. We however got their best machinist from the first Division, and by 4 P.M. got our Engine into good working order again.

Our other old engine had failed a week before, though I had Men in St Louis trying to repair it. So our work was very pressing for the one Engine. However at 4 P.M. We were in Order and started to commence our day's work. Mitchell & I both came up here to Ducoign on the Train. As it was a night Train great care requisite, & absolutely necessary to be back to the River to load again before 7 the next morning to bring up Mr Mason & his party. One or other of us would keep with the Train. I had intended to go up myself leaving Mitchell to sleep till the Train came along back; but I hardly know how it went differently, from some impulse of Mitchell's I believe, for I certainly wanted & intended to go up. But I did stay, & Mitchell went on with the Train. It was then just dark. Three miles above here a cow jumped suddenly on the Track immediately before the Train, and in less probably than half a Minute. That train Engine & 9 cars was one Mass of Ruins. It was doubtless within 10 minutes from the time it left this Station. I was soon there with lights and help. Dr Hay who lives here & other Drs sent for. Mitchell (and the Men on the Engine (who were not seriously hurt) had already removed the wounded. There were 15 men on the Train. All were more or less jarred & shocked. 5 picked themselves up and went off, these were laboring men. Two others were knocked senseless & removed to a house, and soon got over it, are really unhurt. There were three on the Engine. Our Engineer & fireman jumped off and were uninjured. The other Engineman & Machinist from the 1st Div. staid on the Engine to the last, was jammed up against the firebox & bruised a little, It is a wonder he was not killed. If he had jumped off on the side he was one he must have been killed. ~~that~~ That would have been called his chance for safety. By neglecting it he was saved. The other two happened to jump just right. Thos Taylor, the Brakeman was picked up, his thigh dreadfully crushed

and was carried off to the nearest house before I reached there. Dr Hay said first there was no hope for him. The next morning he & Dr Wia & others, thought there might be a possibility, His limb was boxed, He was laid on my mattrass, put on a car & carefully pushed home, but died on Sat. at 5 P. M. Mortification taking place He was the only son of Old "Uncle Dick" Taylor, The tall old Backwoodsman with a hunting shirt, whom you have seen & perhaps remember, The Old Man is a regular Western Character— The Young Man, considering his lack of advantages a remarkably intelligent. as well as amiable fellow; universally beloved. Married about 2 years since to a young & delicate girl— leaves a little child too.

When I got there the first thing was to examine minutely all around the wreck to see if possible there might be any injured, and still living— but no— there were three crushed & mangled bodies under the wreck but they had been instantly killed. Very probably never even knew what was the matter. It was a work of considerable time & labor to raise up the broken cars with the iron with which they were loaded so as to get them out. It was a dreadful sight— a Merciful God preserve me from such another. Oh Ellie, it makes me shudder now to think of it. When I first came up by the side of the Wreck there lay in my path a man's boot uninjured,— but the foot & the leg were in it! The three bodies were all so much crushed & disfigured it was very difficult to recognize them. I got them up on a car bed, composed as decently as possible. Sent off for Coroner & magistrates, and for the friends of one of the men who lived 15 miles north, and for Jas. Taylor's family. Got the wounded taken care of. Charles to stay in Charge of the bodies on the Car. The Carpenters at work making Coffins; tried to get Mitchell to bed. and then started for the River. Had to walk several miles before I could get a Hand Car. At De Soto, found a brother of one of the dead.

They were two Brothers Austin & Asahel Root who came out here a month or two since from Vermont 18 & 21 years old, The younger went to work at the bridge but took sick & has been unable to work most of the time with Dysentery. The Older worked at the track laying, very steady one of the very best men. Thursday his brother sent to him to come down and see him. He went intending to stay a day or two. but finding the Train going up at dark suddenly concluded to go up — and was killed. How I pitied that boy, left alone here so far from home — entirely destitute and sick. I feared he would really break his heart. But I have got him up here & believe he is better, I will take care of him.

I got to the River before Mr Mason arrived from below. Met him there with the dreadful news. Took every measure to urge forward the completion of the bridge — so we can get Engines & cars over from the 1st Div. Then came up with Messrs Mason Oldom & Griswold. with much effort succeeded in getting them through to the End of track by 12 M. so they could go on. I got back to the wreck, where Mr Mitchell was already at work clearing away the fragments with a large force of men. The wreck is a complete one. Our great 10.000.00 Engine as perfectly used up as I ever saw one. lying head downwards in the ditch; the machinery fairly raked down. Four Cars entirely destroyed. The dead were buried at DuQuoin Old burying ground in Friday afternoon. Austin A. Root Harding Keating, Jacob Randleman; all young stout men, 20 to 25 years old. healthy & active; on the same car they were on were four oldish men rather weak & aguish looking who were all saved. Friday night I got down here & slept. I had been on my feet from 5 A.M. Thursday. In the night Friday, by great good fortune, Goodale got back from St Louis with the repaired Cylinder heads of the Old Medford. They went to work on her & got her running before Night Sat. Mitchell & his men succeeded in clearing the wreck & track. I took all the force I could muster to the River, worked there all day & got back tired at 10 P.M. to hear then of Taylor's death. Got men at work on Coffin &c. But I finally got to sleep & slept till about 10 this morning. Mitchell got the Medford started at 4 P.M. up to End of track, came back this morning & has gone up now 3½ P.M. with another Load. I regret the Sabbath work but it seems unavoidable. The whole country is waiting for us. 1000.00 would not pay for the delay of a day now. Unless the Medford worked today The whole line must stop tomorrow. The Engine working today all can get to work tomorrow. I never did order Sunday work. That I could not prevent. I did order not to work today at the bridge — which was taking a great responsibility — if the rain had not taken the responsibility.

John 21
Ada 28
49

June 4
[illegible]
Aug. 4
Sept. 4
Oct. 5
22
3
25

Recd }
Duquoin Nov 18/1854
Dunbarton Nov. 28, 1854

Duquoin Sabbath. Nov. 19. 1854

Dearest Ettie

I believe the cold weather here comes on Sunday. I wrote you what kind of weather it was last Sunday I believe. Monday was as bad, the Snow did not melt away untill Tuesday. After that it was quite comfortable weather. Thursday morning I went up to Centralia, and only returned from there on last night Mr Mason, with Mr Watson &c. and Mr M. Brayman ~~Attorney~~ Solicitor for Ill. Central R.R. also, came down with me: but did not stop here. Are going down to Jonesboro to spend Sabbath. Will probably be back here on Monday sometime. Saturday it began to be cold again and this Morning every thing every thing is frozen up as hard as you please. It was not very early when I got up & had my breakfast this morning. And then I found it so cold in Office that I took my writing materials and came over here to the boarding house. And sit here by the coal fire to write. The room is not very large, but tolerably well filled. There are 10 or 12 boarders, who are pretty likely to be around the fire on a morning like this. Then the family is not inconsiderable, and when the work is done up they are glad to come in to sit in this room. Perhaps I had better introduce you to the family. I hardly know where to begin — Mrs Fulton is undeniably the head in the kitchen: and a very good one too. Mrs Caroline McCoy is probably the head in the dining room. General Assistants, Sarah and Josephine Fulton. Plaything for every body, Mrs McCoy's little baby, now just beginning to go alone. Usually in the way, Mrs Fulton's two or three boys; though I believe the Oldest John divides with a Blacksmith for [illegible] boy the dignity of Landlord, which the latter pretends to entirely disclaim.

Your last letter, of Oct. 28th–31st was received on Tuesday last, and has done me good all the week. When commencing it you seem to have just received a peice of letter from me written at Pinckneyville. Did I not write to you the result of the Curlee vs. Keyes trial? The verdict, although a mixed one, various points being considered, and variously decided, was in favor of Mr Keyes: awarding to Curlee less than Mr Keyes had offered him a year before. Besides that the interest was not allowed. which was a loss to Curlee of some 70 or 80 dolls. You say you felt cross having a canker sore in your mouth. I do not believe it, — that is the crossness it was all in your imagination. I have plagued you, and dared you to it enough to know. Being cross is an exploit of which you are entirely incapable. You had better "meekly" give up all pretentions to it. You would I know if you could hear me snub some of these Suckers occasionally, so as to know by observation what Cross is. I am very sorry for the canker though. Hope it is all well. I am afraid you and Mother do to much work, & get tired. Why do you have a cold? Be careful — Hire some help in the house, if you need it in the least. Getting home here last night, I found letters from Bangor, Samuel, Eliab & Lucy. Lucy only one page though and you know she is the best writer. Little Charlie is there, came down from Milo the only passenger in stage. Coach & four all to himself! Eliab & Maria comfortably housekeeping & all well. Eliab & Samuel write very fair of their business. They have got along much better than could have been expected. It has you know been a very hard time for business men every where. They seem to me to have been unusually fortunate. With such hard times in the business world; the chances appeared decidedly against them. especially as Samuels last winter Lumber failed to come to market, and the twenty or twenty five thousand dollars owed to Pendleton & Ross by Farber & Bradeen puts it out of the power of P. & R. who were relied upon as the backers of Farber

Furber & Metcalf, to help them at all. All Samuel's capital being locked up in the Furber & Bradeen lumber makes it out [illegible] that Furber & Metcalf are trading, entirely without any capital simply upon their Character. This seems to have done very well for them. They have done a business in six mos past of not less than $60.000.00 to a profit of probably $11.000.00 or near that. — if they can carry it through as they now hope.
A good character is the great thing. Mercantile men are always disposed to help one another where they are secure of integrity & effort.
I did want to go to Church today. It seems almost heathenish to live so. But I had no way to go. Besides it is hardly understood whether there is any preaching at Old DuQuoin or not. Mr Bird was coming back sometime to preach a farewell sermon: it may be today.
The New Minister Mr Smith who is to come, will preach half of the time here at the Station. While they were trying to subscribe for it at Old DuQuoin; they asked G. S. Smith to try to get a subscription at the Station, if Rev Mr Smith was to preach there part of the time. G. S. S. answered, "Never mind the subscription. I will be personally "responsible for one half of the salary, if it cannot be raised without at "the station" This point will soon raise a Minister's whole salary, and not half of it only. Oh! I have not told you how L. W. Ashley — former Engineer of 1st Div I. C. R. R. has bought a large farm (L. Dry's) near this Station, and is going into the coal business here. His family came up here Thursday, and are now at Root's. They will probably live here permanently. Mrs Ashley & Mary are in good health. Mrs Ashley though looks 10 if not 20 years older than she did two or three years ago. She has another child, four months old — born in Kentucky.
I have hardly seen Mr Ashley yet, and do not know whether he designs building here immediately or not

Oh Ettie! My Ettie! I am going to see my Ettie & my Mayo! I have got most through here; and thus — Our Track Laying on this Division was completed last night Nov. 18th. That is the Straight line was connected through to the Track from the North. There are still side Tracks, Turnouts &c to lay at Centralia. In a few days Regular Passenger Trains will be running over the Road — carrying Passengers from Cairo by way of the Ohio & Mississippi R.R. to St Louis. I have various things, of arrangements of buildings, Water Stations &c. to finish up; but I mean to do it all pretty fast & quick, and get away in a month or so. — and then I will go to see my Ettie and my Mayo. Take good care of your self — both your selves till that time — Then I'll come & take care of you. Be careful as the cold weather comes on — Remember, you have been two winters in a hot country where there is not much winter. And you will feel the cold weather — Be especially provided with abundant and best winter clothing — Buy it ready made and not try to sew for it. You can just as well — Under clothing, as well as outside — Do my Ettie.

And yet on acc't of cold, do not neglect being out of doors you & Mayo both — not flee the cold — but most abundantly provide for it. Furs — Furs &c. But at any rate & above all do not be cold — for it always hurts any one to be cold.

Your own Isaac

Isaac. De Soto — Nov. 24. 1854 }
Dunbarton Dec 2, 1854 }

De Soto. Nov. 24th 1854

My Dearest

I believe I must write a little to you tonight. Yesterday, I was made glad by the reception of two letters from your own dear self. One was mailed at Dunbarton Nov. 7th. The other at Concord on your way to Pembroke Nov. 9th. How much good they have done me ever since. They seem to keep me in heart like a good meal of victuals. It has been rather a busy week. I spent the Sabbath at Duquoin; writing a letter there to you & another or two to Bangor, which I expect were mailed at Chicago by Mr Post, who started from this region for there on Monday. Monday I was up at Centralia. Track had been completed on the 2nd Div. before that. On Monday it was connected through with that laid above making a connection with the Ohio & Mississippi R.R. to St Louis. On Wednesday commenced regular trains running through for Passengers each way. St Louis at 9 A.M. Sandoval (the Crossing of O. & M. & I. C. R. R.) at 11.30, Centralia 12 M. Duquoin 1-40. Cairo 5 30 P.M. Cairo 6 A.M. Duquoin 10-50 Centralia 12-30 Sandoval 1-30 St Louis 4 ~~PM~~. We are to stop to Dine at Centralia but unfortunately as yet there is no place to dine, and passengers are fortunate if they are not compelled to go through fasting.

I came down here Wednesday P.M. to hurry up some lumber. Went to Centralia Thursday; with a fine rain; and today down here again. Tomorrow I think I shall only go back as far as DuQuoin and spend the Sabbath there.

You seem, by your letters, to be very busy nowadays. You must be careful about doing too much and fatiguing yourself so much. (You and Mother all alone doing all your work.) Do not be too [illegible].

Reading the first letter I was quite sorry for you being disappointed about going to Pembroke to examination. But when I came to read the other, it told of better weather, and that you had already started. I hope you had a pleasant time; and have ere this written me a full account of it. I suppose George came home with you, and you are now having a nice pleasant time together. I wish I were there too. Never mind, I expect to be by and by. Yes, and then will not some of us be glad! Will Little Mayo be afraid of me? He would, I expect, if I should come home with the whiskers! By the way, I have not been to St Louis lately. Orison, (who you know was our barber) has been sick, and all summer; and the beard & moustache has all grown rather long. If I do not wear the hair East I shall have to send you another Daguerreotype!

you enquire whether I hear from Anna, which I have not done since I wrote you some long time ago; till yesterday, when [illegible] received a long nice letter from Anna, who was [illegible] well & very happy but very busy all the time. [illegible] a good deal of company. Their son Dr [illegible] from Illinois has been making a visit there with his family; whom Anna likes very well. She mentioned receiving your letter. I hardly know yet whether [illegible] [illegible] &c when I go east or not. Probably [illegible] through [illegible]. I cannot tell yet when it will be. I have a good many things to attend to yet to finish up my business. Crosby has got out through. I hardly know whether he will go home or not. Mitchell you know stays here as Road Master. [illegible] will probably be a Conductor on the Road. Mr Keyes intends to build & live at the [illegible] Station as soon as possible.

[illegible], an extensive purchase of books "The Lady of the Lake", [illegible] Edition [illegible], price .25? and the only book you have bought in six months?

Your last letter, written just before you were going to Pembroke is written when you had just heard of our R.R. Accident here of the 26th Ult. Now do not go and worry about it all at once as if I were in danger, simply because I am employed on rail roads. Besides the kind care of an [illegible] ruling Providence; you know I claim to be a very [illegible] man, especially of myself & mine; and moreover

... moreover that I am in a very safe bu-
siness. At any rate do not worry about me.
My health is excellent nowadays. The cold
weather braces me up after the heat of
the summer; and I am very well.
So is most every body else now.
Little Charlie Dunning is thought to be get-
ting better. His father has been very [illegible]
is probably recovering now.
I have a business letter or two to write
this evening. Good night and kisses
to Lottie & Mary. Isaac.

Mrs. I. C. Metcalf
Dunbarton, N.H.

Ducoign Dec. 3. 1854. (Isaac)
Dunbarton Dec 12. 1854 —

Ducoign, Sabbath Dec. 3^d 1854

My Dearest

I did not get any Mail last week all the week long, until I got here on Saturday afternoon, near night, then the DuQuoin Mail was there in large amount; lots of newspapers &c: but the rascally Mt Hawkins Postmaster had not sent along the Mail from that Office. So I started a messenger immediately after it; and by about seven o clock had the gratification of receiving two most excellent letters from your own dear self. One was mailed Nov. 14, one Nov. 21^st; just a week apart in starting, but reaching me the same day. The first was commenced Nov. 12, just 20 days in reaching me. So you did not go to Pembroke after all; only got as far as Concord. Well, you had a pleasant ride and that is one good thing. The DuQuoin people have not yet got a preacher. They have given a Call to the Rev. Albert Smith late of Peru, formerly I believe of Middlebury College, but it is doubtful as yet whether he accepts it. The People got up a Subscription to raise 250. The Home Missionary Soc. to pay the other 250. of a 500 Salary. The Old Town was to raise 125. & the New 125. But I guess that both have done, or intend to do better still than that. Mr Smith was down here, came with the D. F. Seminary Teachers, and preached I think two Sabbaths; and they sent the Call on to Peru after him. He had expressed a wish to move down here on account of his health, and partly bargained for Geo. S. Smith's place at Old DuQuoin. The Seminary they say is prospering — that is Miss Paine & another teacher

have a school of some 20 or more females.
One of the Ladies who came on with Miss Smith is teaching a School up here at the Station.
Mr Reid is coming back sometime to preach a Farewell Sermon at DuQuoin. It was to have been last Sabbath but he did not come. Thursday last, Thanksgiving day, Mr Wood preached there. I had an express invitation from Elders Sprague & Hinckley to come down and read a Sermon instead (You know Mr Wood is extremely unpopular with DuQuoin people) I did not be able to go there; and had no thanksgiving at all, except to occasionally think of my Ettie & my Mayo. Working & writing all day.
So poor little Mayo has to go to bed all alone in the dark. Is'nt he "too little"? I suppose though it is doubtless best for him. Bring him up in the way he should go!
You ask if Mr Mason is'nt on the Line often these days. Yes, he is in the South part of the State considerable part of the time. You know it is easier getting about through than it was. There is now only 20 Miles of Track lacking to make the connection through to La Salle. There is about One hundred & twenty miles of Road in running operation here; and of course the Chief must attend to it. Mr Mason was down here this last week, yesterday and day before. Big Muddy Bridge is done - the Wood Work - the Stone work is not entirely complete, & John Condit Smith is at work upon it. But Trains have run over it regularly since Nov. 1st. Little Muddy Bridge you know is of Stone entirely - Stone Arches. It was finished so Track was laid over it, and it has been

irregularly used since the ~~first of October~~ middle of September. At the same time the bridge is not complete. The Coping, or ornamental top courses of cut stone are not put on completely finished.
It is currently affirmed that Mistress Keyes declares particularly that whatever any body else may do, She shall never live at the Station. Mr Keyes is preparing for a residence here as rapidly as possible. In fact he is here all the time now; frequently does not go down to the old town for more than a week together. Appears, if as if he had no care at all for his family. I have not seen Mrs Keyes for several months.
I have seen Abby Wilson lately for the first time since you were here. She said she was going to write to you. Should before, but did not know where to direct.
Is your bonnet black? I know I shall like one side of it at any rate. Why do you not get yourself some furs if they are worn?
I cannot tell yet when I shall get away, and go home. Mr Mason said long ago Dec. 1st; but I did not expect it and wrote you Jan. so that you need not expect me too soon. Still I may get away before the month of Dec. is out. At any rate you know, it will be as soon as I can.
I am much obliged for Mother's good lines on Mar.
Mayo is really backward about his teeth. Why girl Geo. Mrs McCoy's baby, several months younger, and who does not go alone yet, has a whole mouth full, some 14 or 18 I believe she told me.
So you have already began to catechise little Mayo upon mischief! I expect you will find though that he has

got too much of his father about him to excel in it quite as much as his Mother. It is a little curious though hardly to be wondered at I suppose that he should reply, when asked "who was the meekest", in sounds much more resembling "Ma ma" than "Moses"!

Charles has not yet started will probably go this week sometime - He did almost start last week but I persuaded him to stay.

Les Confidences de Alph. Lamartine is not much good, is it?

You do not ought to do so much work and get so tired either of you. And to prove it to you got a bad cold, and were about sick — there is nothing like getting tired to give one a bad Cold. And poor little Mayo too with a bad cold — I suppose by running about on the wet floors when you were washing. Can you not get somebody else to wash for you.

And how did you get along as Editress of the Paper with such a bad Cold, and half sick?

I shall be home pretty soon to take care of you you will find — (not probably) possibly by Christmas.

Do take care of yourself will you not my dearest?

I believe I have sent you three X s, lately, I will put another in this letter I guess make XXXX

No late letters from Bangor, Charles got a lot of me from Home and two from Milo yesterday.

But do not stop writing to me as Albina did to Charles? Kisses to Mayo, and love to all — but especially to mine Ettie.

Most sincerely J. W. Mctte...

Ducoign. Iowa, Dec 16. 1854

Dunbarton Dec 23, 1854

Sabbath, Dec. 16. 1854
Ducoign P. H.

My Dearest Dear Wife Ettie

I did not get any letter from you all the week long. I was quite disappointed when I got here from Centralia last night not to find any. I am a little disposed to attribute the blame to the rascally post master at Mt Hawkins. It is possible there may be a letter there, though I hardly see how it could be left there. The mails however may be detained some other way, and the scamp may be innocent — that is — in that particular. Really I do not hardly know how to keep Sabbath without a letter from you. However I have to day an Independent & a Congregationalist, & a Chicago Evangelist. I did think last night that I would go down to Du Quoin today to see if there were any meeting there — I know there is no minister — but — when I got up this morning — not very early — and there was no possible way to get down

there but to walk the four miles and back, it seemed rather too great an undertaking; especially as it was very cloudy, and seemd like to rain, which too made the prospect for any meeting at all, when I did get there, very small. However, it has not rained any as yet and I have almost been sorry I did not try it; for really it is a long while since I have been to Church at all.

But here have I sat and read all day so far, and Wm Crosby by me.

Charles started last Thursday, and it really seems very lonesome here without him.

I wrote you last from here last Sunday Monday I went to Centralia, Tuesday back here Thursday to Centralia again with Charles on his way East. Yesterday back here again. Charles I suppose is today in Elyria. And about next Wednesday or Thursday will be at Bangor.

There I have just — stopping this letter — written a letter to Charles to get home to Milo, about as soon as he does.

When I shall get away I cannot say

I met Mr Mason at Centralia yesterday morning. He is to be down again on Tuesday 26th, and very possibly I shall get away immediately thereafter. Then may have have to stop a week or so, some days at least in Chicago; and then Mr Mason spoke as if he might wish me to go to "Our folks" in New York City. But you may be sure I shall lose little time getting away to my Ettie. I have got pretty much tired of every thing else. You see by this letter that I have got too lazy to even write decently! You see I keep Crosby as a Copyist for me lately, and so hardly try to write sometimes! There, a poor excuse is better than none, I have heard but this is too poor even for that!
What shall we do this winter when I do get there? I suppose you do not want to go down to Bangor near as much as I do. I must go there a while; I want to see how Eliab & Samuel are getting along, and try to help them out of their difficulties if possible.
Charles had $950. or more of his money when he started. I almost ought to have sent some to them by him; but in fact the "financial crisis" was so great here that I could not very well do so. I had paid

out too much of my own money, and it was hard getting it again. It is really very hard times for Rail Roads nowadays.

Mr Mason talks encouragingly of of Minnesota next Spring. What do you think about it? Has not Jenny got enough of Factory to want to come home & stay with Father & Mother Contentedly? If she does not — She will while you & are we gone down East this winter, will she not?

D C Mayo

When you get this letter, perhaps you had better write to Elyria, care to Anne rather than here — for by that time it will be too late for a letter to find me here, and I shall go through Elyria on my way Home. And I shall want to hear from you especially if I have to go to N. Y. City, and stop a while — as is very possible

Love to all, especially, Ettie & Mayo

Your own J. G. Metcalf

Isaac. Chicago Dec. 31, 1854
Dunbarton Jan 4. '55

Chicago, Sabbath. Dec. 31st 1854

My Dearest Ettie

I believe I must write a letter to you, even though I knew I should leave it behind me in getting to Dunbarton. I do so much want to hear from you & Mayo today. I was very much afraid from what you wrote that Mayo was going to be sick. That was by letters I received a week ago yesterday. I got another a bit of a letter in pencil writte the 25th I believe, which came to hand last Wednesday (written to tell me how much money you had received) from which (as you did not mention his being unwell) I judged that Mayo must be in health.
I shall very much hope to find a letter from you at Elyria. I cannot tell when I shall get there exactly. I am hoping to get through here tomorrow possibly in season to start in the Night Train East tomorrow night; in which case I would get to Elyria Tuesday night, and possibly to Dunbarton by Saturday night. You must not however be surprised or alarmed if I do not get there for a week longer. There is no knowing what delays I may meet with.
I wrote to you last Sabbath from Du Quoin.
Monday I went up to Centralia. Staid there

there until Wednesday, Then down to DuQuoin.
Thursday noon started North with Mr Mason
who came down on Wednesday, and started back with
me on Thursday. That night we stopped at Vandalia
with Mr Jones Eng. 3d Div. The next day Friday the last
of the Track was laid on the 3d Div. thus making a
connection through from Cairo North. Regular
Trains will not commence through though until
Jan. 8th. Much of the 3d Div Track is in bad order and
needs considerable work to make it fit to run
over safely. Mr Mason complimented my
Second Division work considerable, at the Ex-
pense of Mr Jones! Friday night we stopped
at Decatur with Mr Plant, H. B. Plant Eng. 4th Div.
I had never met Mr Plant before; He is quite a
young Man, really good looking; and I liked
him considerably. Saturday we came
here; Via Bloomington, LaSalle, Mendota
& Aurora. I may be fortunate enough
to get away from here tomorrow night
or Tuesday morning, but may not.
This Forenoon I went to the Plymouth
Church; and heard Mr Eggleston preach
It was a Sermon to Children on New Year's
time, upon the Youth of Christ. I noticed Mr
Broad whom you remember coming to
DuQuoin as Chorister, & singing powerfully!

This evening I believe I shall go to hear
Mr Patterson, Mr Rowley's Minister, whom
you have heard him speak of so much.
At the 2d Presbyterian Church; the finest in Town.
He is to preach a Special Sermon for the New year's
occasion. I was a good mind to not go
for Mr Rowley says it is no credit to Mr
Patterson to preach a good Sermon; for he
cannot help it! Mr Rowley I saw last
night in a few minutes after I reached here
Ettie, I gave your Rocking Chair to Mrs Ashley
was that proper! I could not carry it away
Mrs Ashley at the Station one day happening
to sit down in that Chair, admired it much and so I gave
it to her the day I left there.
I got a letter from Charles before I
left Dubuque, written at Elyria on his
his way home.
He had got a bad cold by that time.
I knew he would in travelling. Few
can travel in winter without.
I guess it is about time for Church
and I must stop writing.
Truly Ettie's
I S Metcalf

Isaac, Lewistown Penn.
June 8. 1855
[illegible] June 14. 1855.

Lewistown, Mifflin Co. Penn.
Friday Eve. June 8 1855

Dearest Ettie

I couldn't go through this Country without seeing it by daylight, and so stop here tonight. Were you ever in New Hampshire? Perhaps you thought there were Mountains there. Well it proves to be a mistake! The Mountains are here. I never saw so much in my life — and I have not got through the Alleghanies yet. You know I care nothing for the beauty of color which you admire so much — skies blue & red, tinted leaves &c. But I do believe that I have an eye & a taste for beauty of form — and variety of form as it is really in Mountain. These Mountains too are now my favorite color — green — all shades of it, and all reflections too, in sunshine & shade & cloud shadow. But I must tell you of my progress & journey. I left Boston by Providence R.R. at 5½ P.M. after loafing most of the day in Boston yesterday. Visited Public Garden & by greenhouses, and saw lots of flowers which you would have admired more than I. — In the Garden the White Iris seemed to be universal

the Great Rains stopping the dust made R.R. travelling very pleasant, and I almost wished I had gone through by R.R. especially ~~there~~ reaching Stonington the wind seemed to be heavy.
But I went on board the fine Steamer C. Vanderbilt at 9 P.M. and slept excellently till 6 the next this morning, when I found us just coming in sight of N York via East River.
Had time in New York to get breakfast & tickets, and to see the outside of Barnum's Museum, now resplendent with the great Baby Show.
Left N. Y. at 8 by the Camden & Amboy to Phil^a^ 90 Miles by 12 o clock. Had not time in Phil^a^ to see much, leaving there at 1 P.M.
First through the beautiful Chester Co. Valley the land of milk & butter. ~~to~~ — to Lancaster and old Dutch City incorporated 40 years ago nearly, and apparently having slept ever since till lately. 30 Miles farther come down into the Valley of the Susquehanna, broad & beautiful both valley & river with wide current & green Islands. — Lumber & Canal boats besides Then Harrisburg, and then crossing the great Susquehanna Bridge 3/4 Mile long — and the Mountains — the Mountains — all sorts of Mountains, and all sorts of Gaps. 60 Miles to this Place which is west of the Blue Ridge

The Alleghanies are yet to come.
Through the Mountains from the Susquehanna here the road follows the Juniata River [40 miles]
It is a beautiful stream, I suppose the same one where roved bright Alfarata, but probably on account of the late great rain its waters are by no means blue — but exceedingly muddy. This pleasant little shire town of Mifflin Co. Lewistown was once the residence of Logan the Mingo Chief, famous Indian Orator.

Well perhaps I have written more than you will have patience to read.
I do not know when I shall reach Elyria.
I am thinking some of going right down the Ohio River from Pittsburg to Cairo.
It will be some cheaper, and then I should not see Elyria till after going to Chicago. An objection to this is that I want to hear from Elliott & Mayo.
At any rate you had better write to DuQuoin, as soon as you get this.
I shall write to Ann, if I do not go right there from Pittsburg or Brookville.

Sincerely
J. Isaacs

Isaac Curwensville Penn
June 10. 1855
Bangor June 16. 1855

221
166
55

187
1[illegible]
55

"Good Intent & People's Line Hotel"
Curwensville, Clearfield Co. Penn.
Sabbath, June 10. 1855

My Dearest Wife

If my letters should ever all get to you, I guess they will be considered 'abundant'. I have written about once a day since leaving Bangor [illegible]! Bangor June 6, I wrote from Boston the 7, from Lewistown Penn. the 8th, Last eve being Sat. eve. I put off writing till today. However as I am am going farther & farther away, perhaps the letters will arrive 'scattering'. I believe I have written you a pretty full account of my journeyings until yesterday.

Yesterday Morning, June 9th I [illegible] near [illegible] which [illegible] over $2.00. Now do not begin to say it was 'just like me', & to wish I would not [illegible]; for it really was not my fault but the Landlord's who sent it to another, and if I had time, or it would have paid a man for it, I would have made him pay for it. Perhaps enough he will send it on to [illegible] to me. After this [illegible] 'Episode' I took the cars and rode 55 miles among the Mountains & the Juniata River [illegible] — through some of the mountains in fact, & [illegible] among or under the [illegible] Mountains) The day before the Blue Ridge Mountains were all [illegible] of various Shades. These today, nearer the Alleghanies, are only Green partly; [illegible] of the way being only [illegible], rather near perpendicular [illegible] ledges, or immense piles & [illegible] fragments [illegible].

At Tyrone ~~(which~~ at 8 oclock I took Stage - and about 12 or 13 hours' hard steady riding to reach this point 42 miles, or perhaps only 40. Tyrone City is a new place springing up on the Rail Road, but in the midst of an old Iron, Mining & Blasting region, the Tyrone, Union Birmingham & Bald Eagle Furnaces ~~being~~ having been in operation for 30 or 40 years at least. From Tyrone City to Bald Eagle Furnace is a gently ascending Plank Road. Then comes the Alleghany Mountain itself, the great Back bone of this part of the world. First up a long hill and down a ~~long~~ Short one two or three times, and then up, up - up - winding along the mountain sides, on a turnpike road cut out of the rocky slopes, but always up - up - 2½ miles, which I walked, to the Summit, the top of the Alleghany ridge. The Mountain is beautiful with flowers of various kinds, especially flowering shrubs. A little while since the magnificent Kalmia, larger Laurel must have made a fine show. Just now all along the highest parts is brilliant with the beautiful Azalias Mountain Oak honeysuckle they call it here.

From the Mountain top which is extensive [illegible] roll down down to Phillipsburg in Centre Co. to Dinner at 2 oclock (19 miles in 6 hours). This is on the Mushannon Creek branch of the Susquehanna. Phillipsburg is a little village looks about a hundred years old & always just the same, till nowadays the Yankee Lumbermen are stirring it up somewhat. Just now with a fine rise of water driving logs out of the Mushannon.

The Landlord of the "Spread Eagle Hotel" [illegible] [illegible], resembles much S.W. Furber's Partner of that name.

In the Afternoon over the hills to Clearfield on the Susquehanna, near the mouth of the large Clearfield Creek! Clearfield is quite a large village, the Shire town of Clearfield Co., perhaps about as large as Dover-Foxcroft, and apparently about 100 years old. But those who turn the world upside down, (the Yankees,) have come hither, too. Clearfield is quite a Lumber region; and in the midst of Lumber, Coal & Iron is destined soon to have Railroads and be something. It is quite an interesting thought that the Yankees will thus [illegible] these Sleepy Hollow regions of Pennsylvania Dutchland.

This Place — Curwensville, (Curwinsville on the maps) (at the mouth of Anderson's Cr) (Curwansville I should call it) 6 (six) miles up the Susquehanna from Clearfield is much like that, only smaller. Here the Stage lays over till Monday So I shall regularly reach Brookville on Monday night. I did not write that it rained some yesterday afternoon, though I was very comfortable on the Stage top — rain hard before we reached here, and very hard all night & this morning; but seems now 11 A.M. to be clearing away.

I enquire for Meeting, but they say Nicht but some kind of a Methodist preachment this evening.

12 M. An hour or two since I saw Children in the Street, and going out found a Methodist Sabbath School of 50 or 60 [illegible], but all little ones, almost an infant school; a large [illegible] wanting to read. There is also a little Baptist Meeting House here, but no meeting in either.

I should hardly know what to do, if I had not here a [illegible] [illegible] that will pass time.

I may get tired of staying here, and the noise of the adjacent Bar rooms, where the Maine Liquor Law does not seem to have reached; and I may conclude this (after noon) to take the [illegible] and walk towards the next town.

Oh Ollie - how much I have wanted another pair of eyes to see these mountains and everything with me the days past. That seemed to be the only thing lacking in my enjoyment of them.

Tell Samuel & Elial that these great Rains all over the country, are bringing every thing in the shape of Lumber & timber into Market, more than ever before, and the prices are going down to nothing almost. All the Lumber dealers in this region are losing about every thing.

I shall mail this in [illegible], but the next time I write I shall probably be at [illegible] Write all about [illegible], as well as yourself,

Isaac S.

Isaac - Elyria, this June 17, 1855
Mils June 25. 1855

Elyria, Lorain Co. Ohio
Sabbath, June 17. 1855.

My Dear Wife Ollie,

I arrived at Elyria last night, and found your nice letter of June 5th, and have been longing exceedingly for one of later date. This was written before receiving any of mine, and I wrote to you almost every day. I wrote to you on the 7th at Boston, the 8th at Lewistown Penn. mailed at Tyrone on the 9th, again on the 10th at Curwensville Penn. which was mailed at Luthersburg, the 11th and again at Brookville Jefferson Co. Penn. mailed there perhaps the 13th or 14th.

I left Brookville Thursday night June 14th and rode by stage to Clarion, capital of Clarion Co. about 20 miles, slept two or three hours, and started again at 4 A.M. by stage for Catfish. I travelled by stage in Penn. from Tyrone in Blair Co. North West 100 Miles through Centre, Clearfield, Jefferson & Clarion Counties. At Clarion I turned S. W. towards Pittsburg, Fifteen Miles from Clarion I found the Allegheny River at Brady's Bend, at the Great Iron Works of that name. I was at Brady's Bend most of the day waiting for a Steamboat. It is a curious place - let me make you a diagram of the course of the River.

From Catfish to Redbank is 10 Miles by the River; by land 1/2 a Mile!

From the Highway I came on, one looks down upon the beautiful winding River and the little landing places, apparently right under feet. They seem much farther away vertically than horizontally! The Hills which every where shut in the Allegheny River in this region must be more than 500 feet high.

At Brady's Bend are by far the largest Iron Works I have ever seen. There are about 40 Puddling Stacks, and great Rolling Mills for Rail Road Iron making

It is the best Chance for Iron Manufacture I have ever seen.
The Bluff rising every where behind the works seems to be made
in layers of immense size of the best of Iron Ore, Coal, and
Lime Stone, — every thing they want for the Iron Manufac-
ture. And yet there these great works, every thing in perfect
order, have been lying entirely idle these five months.
There are about 50 boarding houses for workmen, besides those
for Superintendents — offices &c. &c.
Staid at Brady's Bend most of the day, looked at the works, the
Rail Ways to bring down Coal & Ore, &c. &c. There came up
the little Steamer Corn Planter, on which I took passage
went up as far as Catfish five miles, and then down
among the hills of the wildly beautiful Allegheny; hills
much of the way in all their original wildness, but yet frequently
relieved by the smutty coal mine, or obscured by the black
smoke of the Iron furnace, or the vapors of the Salt Works.
All these are abundant. There seems to be but one thing
lacking to this region - that is for its Manufacturing
interests — that is a little water in the River — The Alle-
ghany is like the Ohio, only more so — of which John Randolph
said it was froze up one half the year, and dried up
the other half. There are really but a few weeks in
the year that it is fairly Navigable; so long as it rains
all the time it is a beautiful River indeed but a few warm
days dry it up. When I was on it it had not rained for
3 days or two, and then we were told that about the last day
the boats could get up — though we met a couple
going up or trying to that height. But if this rain
extends there, it must keep it up a few days longer.
The Corn Planter reached Pittsburgh in the night.
I had the next morning till 8 o'clock to look about

about in Pittsburgh - the City of Iron & Coal Smoke. The Iron City, it is called. Iron & iron manufacture are the principal [illegible] to be seen. But the overdriving Coal smudge is always on hand to prevent any thing being fairly seen.

By the way I found my umbrella tolerably safe, by a [illegible] from the Landlord at Hamilton where I lost it.

I left Pittsburgh at 8 A.M. by R.R. for Cleaveland. Arrived there at 3 P.M. Waited there till 5¼ and reached Elyria at 7 P.M. in the midst of much rain but in fine health & spirits, and found all here about the same. They had been expecting to see me for a day or two. Every thing here is nice comfortable & convenient, as can be. Do you not wish Sweet you & I & Mayo [N.B. Grace!] had some nice place of our own? Would not we be happy? However, I guess we will not complain much. We have much now to be grateful for. Probably we are as happy now as most people usually are, — at least when we can keep together.

This house is improved very much since you were here. They have a boarder a Miss Smith of Litchfield the Teacher, an old friend of Hanna's.

I do not know as I can write any thing new about the folks here. They want to see you and Mother probably more than they wanted to see me. They had a great freshet here a week ago, carried away mills, bridges &c. And now is another great rain. It rained

rained hard all night I believe, and
the same about all day. But we all
went to Church Rev'd Mr Wilbur —
their Minister — I believe you saw him
did you not? a red sandy headed young man
is quite a fine preacher.

I hope another letter from you tomorrow
morning. I do not know yet whether
I shall go on to Chicago tomorrow night
or wait a day or so.

I did really want to go down the Ohio
River. I believe nothing hindered me
from it but the desire of getting here a letter
from you. I believe I directed my last to
Milo. for I hardly believe you have gone there yet — have you?
Guess I will send this to Bangor.

I mailed at Pittsburgh a letter to Furber & Metcalf con-
taining plans of their land &c. &c. I want to hear how
Clark made out at Boston that week.

I suppose I need not ask you to keep things
for me. Please [illegible] Lucy [illegible]. I did not
think I [illegible] again before I [illegible]

Yours only & ever
Isaac

(Be careful of my [illegible])
Dennison Co.
[illegible]

[illegible] Trenchard [illegible]

Isaac. Brookville Penn. June 14
Mil: June 25: 1855 } 1855

Brookville, Jefferson Co. Penn.
Thursday, June 14. 1855

My Dearest

Why I have not written to you for a great while, since last Sabbath I guess. Yes: I wrote on Sunday at Curwensville, Clearfield Co. and mailed the letter at Luthersburg on Monday.

Well I got tired enough of a Sabbath at Curwensville — there was no meeting — the Inn was full of the Susquehanna River Rafts men, who were noisy &c. and after Dinner I took to the woods on foot, climbing the finest of hills, covered with Locust Trees in full bloom, much of the way.

I came to where there had been a meeting preaching by a Moravian, United Brethren, meeting just through, & I wished I had started a little sooner.

About that time it began to rain, and I stopped at a comfortable Wayside Tavern. Monday 11th I walked on before the stage got along, through Luthersburg, and come 12 Miles I guess. Finally the stage, and got here at night — 3 days from Tyrone. Tuesday & ~~part~~ most of yesterday I spent in the woods walking all the time over the hills and through the Laurel swamps, and did not tire me much either. This Morning air is very

and exhilirating; I have felt stronger and better ~~than~~ for a long time. I can now walk all day in the woods without fatigue, which I could not have done by any means a few weeks since.
This Village is a straggling affair, along the hill sides at the union of two or three smaller creeks which form the Red Bank branch of the Alleghany River.
It is not so large as old Clearfield on the Susquehanna, but has much more business I judge.
I think I shall leave here tonight — Go by Stage to Clarion, the Shire town of Clarion Co. — Thence to ——— at the mouth of the Red Bank, and thence by Steamboat to Pittsburg.
I rather want to go right down the Ohio — clear to Cairo — and may conclude to do so. It will be very much cheaper than any other way I could go, and I want to see the whole Ohio River. But on the other hand, I want to hear from my Ellie & Mayo, and when I get to Pittsburgh tomorrow night or Saturday Morning, the temptation may be too strong for me to go to Elyria to stay over Sunday, and find a letter or two there.

Well, I do not know what more I have to write. I suppose you are rather tired of my pertinaciousness urging you not to sew, sew &c.
And I expect before this reaches you you will be at Milo, and I believe you promised me when you got there you would not sew any more hardly — but run about out doors with Mayo. Do not now sit right down, and sit, sit, and sew, sew all the time. — Neither try to take long walks and tire your self all out. You will Ettie I know be good about it, won't you?
I shall send this to Milo I believe

Most Affectionately
R. J. S.

This writing is horrible
but the pen is ver bad.
And the ink the same.
I forgot to take an inkstand.

My Ollie ~ Sometimes when I stop to think I am much at a loss what to do with myself. If there were not two or three things - or persons - which make life so beautiful to me, & the enjoyment of life while I live so much an object to me, methinks I should be plunging into business wherever I could find it, going south, or going any where where my profession and my advancement in it, might call me. But as it is, I hesitate; I think not only of my profession, not only of myself alone. The happiness, the comfort, the health, the best interests, of others are still dearer to me. A home - A home, for myself and those so dear to me, rises before my mind, as the great object of desire. I had hardly thought of a permanent home for myself until within a year or two or three ~ now it seems the one great object of my thoughts. But where shall it be? That is the great question. And it is a hard question for me to settle. The decision of it belongs as much to you Ollie as to me. It is for you and I and our children. If I had business of any kind there I should like to live in Bangor, surrounded by so large a proportion of those who are dear to me. But we are not able to live without business, neither could I be permanently happy to do so.

We could settle down on a N. E. Farm — cut N. hills or in Maine forests. We have the means to do it on a small scale, away from the larger Towns, but still with some N. E. privileges for ourselves & ours, besides its bracing air. We could be healthy & happy; but humble, and always when noting the groth & prosperity of this mighty West, we should remember that we might have been a part of its groth & greatness. We might perhaps do better among the hills of Pennsylvania, equally healthy, more fertile, more chance for material prosperity, but less for Moral & social advantages.
Then Ohio where we could be fully equal to N. E. in Moral & social privelege — fully equal to the land of Penn. in the chance for material prosperity, but without the bracing health giving air of either Penn. or New England.
Then the fertile plains of Illinois; We might locate here as healthy probably at least as in Ohio, with still greater prospects of material prosperity — with the prospect almost sure of wealth before us — after a few years of effort — True we might not live to enjoy it — and for social & other priveliges, apart from our own fireside — alas these would all be only in the brilliant promises of the future — What say you to it? Where shall we look for our home?

Or shall we look farther?

The high rolling prairies of Kansas — hilly prairies — at the head waters of great rivers, are said by some to be by far the healthiest & the most fertile portion of the whole Continent, and one day to become a seat of its richest civilization. Shall we go there? Perhaps — when I help build a Pacific R.R. through there —

On the other hand there is Minnesota — which seems now the great El Dorado of New Englanders. By the way, I have just seen in the streets here a Goffstown man, Houston — I believe — just from St Paul's. He is in perfect extacies with Minnesota, cannot find words for his admiration of the climate, the soil, the rolling hills, the crystal lakes, the gushing springs &c. &c. All are perfect. And then the chance for business. He says money is still from 2 to 5 per cent per month. City of St Anthony now paying 3 " " " ". He said one man who got his board for a year past for the interest of $300.00

Had I better raise what money I can at DuQuoin, and go up there & look?

Isaac

Chicago, June 22nd 1855

Isaac. Chicago June 22. 1855
Milo - June 1855 _
{Pencilling - thoughts about
{a home. Where shall it be?}

Isaac. Du Quoin. July 1. 1855
Brownville. July 18. 1855
Retrospective thought
about Du Quoin!

DuQuoin Station I. C. R. R.
Perry Co. Illinois
Sabbath July 1st 1855

Dear Wife

How the time passes! Here I am writing July! This reminds me of some other July, which you too remember, and of our anniversary, so soon to arrive. I did very much want to be with you on that day, and even when I left Bangor had some little hope of it. Three years of wedded life! How happy you have made them for me! I fear I have not done as well as I ought in making them every way pleasant to you. You know I do want to, Ettie; but somehow the effort I make to effect it seems very little.
How good our God has been to us in those three years. True we have been separated a good deal; but yet how happy we have been together. You have been tried by suffering & wearisome sickness; And Oh! there was one day, when Dr Wall spoke discouragingly, and I really feared; Oh I thought my heart would break that day; But you never knew it.
But the Lord has delivered us, and surrounded us with his great mercy. He has given us that which is now the light of our Eyes, and the pride of our hearts, our darling Lee. Here as I sit at this desk of Mitchells; (my old desk, at which I have sat so many days & nights) how

how often I catch myself looking up to reach to that remembered nook where I kept that beautiful daguerreotype of Mayo, and the other of Ettie's self! How often they consoled me during that long last Summer.
In those three years too God has blessed us in basket and store. It was really but little that we had when we were wed. — little but true hearts and skilful hands. And now I suppose we have what then we might perhaps have considered a competence. The prospects of this Du[illegible] property are I think better & better. It is true, on account of the hard times, there has been little sold, and less realised of late: But I would not now dispose of my interest in it for $5000.00. This C[illegible]al business must rapidly bring it forward. On one 40 acres of it we have sold about 2/3 of the lots, for some $3000.00 of which I have received som[e] and shall about $1000.00 more this fall. The other third will probably bring us $1000.00 each additional. Then there is 360 acres of land yet untouched. For the least valuable parts of this we are now getting $20.00 per acre. Some of it does not lack offers indeed at $50.00 per acre. So it cannot well net me less than $5000.00 more and may perhaps $10.000.00. Besides all this you know I have out here 480 acres of land in other places, for some of which I could now get $10. per acre, and which may probably in a few years all bring ~~that~~ price. Then you know I have most $4000.00 at Bangor. In fact Ettie we ~~could~~ have enough so we could settle tolerably most any where; The only difficulty is our property is invested where we cannot well get at it just n[illegible]

Evening. I have been down to the Old Town to Meeting again today; Rode Mr Keyes' Jennie, and had a fine ride. Mr Hubert Smith preached for the last time for the present. He is just leaving now & probably will accept the H. M. Soc. Agency, in which case he will not return in Sept. It was also Communion this Afternoon.

When I went down before I did not go near the old place. Today noon I did, and hardly knew whether to laugh or cry. Inside it is simply a deserted house, and does not look much worse than when I returned there last Summer, and found no Ettie there. But around the house! The Garden, why you could not crowd your way through it. Weeds & every thing else as thick as a mat six feet high all over it. A perfect tangle, flowers, vegetables & weeds just as thick as they can stand, in that rich soil striving for pre eminence. You remember a little row of peach sprouts across the bottom of the Garden two or three feet high maybe. They were never transplanted and there they stand close together, but Trees, 15 or 20 ft. high & covered with peaches! That great pear tree south of the house is as tall & vigorous as ever, but is hardly to be seen; it is only one mighty pyramid of grape vine, & well covered with largest of clusters. The way to the 'Cape of Good Hope' is entirely blocked up with weeds & boughs. All round the house it is the same. Every window is shut up by thickest curtain of leaves. The Rose bushes are most mighty & multitudinous, but a perfect snarl with every thing else. The Trumpet Honeysuckles cover the roofs in their gorgeous pride. In the yard North & west of the house, is in part, a forest rather than a lawn. It is astonishing to see the rapidity of vegetation in this country. Nothing has been pruned or dressed. You remember the Ailanthus Trees. They grow some. Their sprouts now cover half the yard, 10 or 12 ft. high.

I pushed my way through the copse, past the Catalpas, the Crab, the Fringe tree, the Cherries &c. on the Old Office path we trod so often. You would not know it. And when through to the fence, the Office corner is a nice patch of corn! The other corner, where Smith's store was, is a smart patch of weeds, Mrs Skinner's house even is not to be seen for shrubbery; and that is the case with most of the houses. And the roads are grown up with weeds.

There I guess I have given you a pretty good idea of Old DuQuoin as it now is. As for the country around, it is smartly fenced up, and has fine crops on it, lots of Maclura hedge growing. I saw to-day corn 10 or 12 ft. high; other just coming up.

I did very much hope to get a letter from you yesterday, but it did not come. I shall be ready to leave tomorrow noon, but shall wait till night in hope to get a letter.

All at DuQuoin inquire diligently for you. All want to see you there again.

You will write to St Paul, I hope before you get this, and afterward to Elyria.

Good night, Ellie
Isaac S.

+

Bangor, Aug. 21 1855

My Dearest

I thought all day yesterday how you would be expecting a letter when the mail came last night. But you know a letter to go up Monday must be mailed on Saturday, and we did not get down till 8 or half past. And then thought we might get away perhaps to day or tomorrow. But the Lawyers I must see are out of Town. One of them is expected back tomorrow or next day, and I will hope to go back to Milo on Friday at farthest. But it is uncertain.

I have kept thinking of you ever since we left Milo: It troubles me that you should have to get up in the night all the time to take care of Mayo: And to lift him too, I hope you will not do it much. No matter the Bed — even 'Mine little trik bed' — had better suffer than you yourself.

We had quite a comfortable ride down here. Though the road is very bad — so much rain, and so much heavy teaming. Mother was somewhat tired.

At Lacey's we found Mr & Mrs Packard and, Mr & Miss Jas. & Mary Sykes, and the house pretty full. However Mother staid till Sunday, & then went down to Eliab's

Gertie has been very sick. I guess that a week ago, they pretty much gave her up, the Dr & all. They have had Dr Payne all the time, but they left off giving her Medecine and she got better fast. Sunday morning they thought her worse again, but she got better and yesterday seemed quite smart, but I suspect she ate too much perhaps and today is worse — the discharges frequent have returned, and they are again quite alarmed. I am extremely sorry for them. Their state of mind is bad one. The Child is quite sick, and they do not know what to do for her. They have lost lost confidence in all the Physicians, and do not know any thing what to do.

The fact is there is scarcely any thing more desirable — more entirely essential to any mental comfort — than Faith — First I suppose is faith in Religion — in ones religious teachings and system; and next certainly to that must be ranked faith in one's Physicians.

In fact as we most of us, I am afraid, have a bad habit of thinking more of our bodies & what concerns them, than of our souls & their interests. I am by no means sure that we do not at present suffer more from lack of faith in our doctors than from lack of religious faith.

Samuel went yesterday to Boston; will probably be back on Wednesday or Thursday.
There is not much to be done in the Garden nowadays, and I am rather short of business if I have to stay here most of the week.
The Garden is fine - produces Peas, Beans, Beets, Corn, Potatoes &c. besides Flowers innumerable.

Lucy says tell Nettie she has so much on her mind nowadays that she can not think of any thing to write. She has been full of Company, but her health seems to be very good.
Young Jas. Sykes proposes to send her a couple of brace of doves, Choice varieties Fantails & Tumblers.
Percie is in prime health. Though he eats little but crackers & such like.
Lucy has made Ten Gallons of Currant Wine! Is that according to Maine Law?
Mr Packard is somewhat sick, and unable to preach last Sabbath.
Jas. & Mary Sykes left for Boston on Monday.
Please Kiss Mayo several times, but do not try to lift him too much or at all.
Sincerely
W. H. Sykes[illegible]

1856 / Isaac Warwick Jan 5. 1856
1789 / Dunbarton - Jan. 8 / 1856

Warwick, Mass. Jan. 5th 1856
"Aunt Conant's"

Dearest

Well we are not yet at Elyria! We got to Brattleboro nicely Thursday afternoon, and stopped over night, and were you know going right on Friday, to get to Elyria today. But, almost as I anticipated, Mother couldnt get by so near without coming out to see Aunt Betsy. So under pretense she feared we might be delayed, and not get to Elyria before Sat. Night, she concluded to 'just' come out here. So we came down to Northfield Friday got a horse & nice covered sleigh & got over here last night, stopping by the way to send word to Aunt Esther to come over here this morning. And this afternoon we are going back to Northfield, and spend the Sabbath there, and go on Monday morning, having the week before us.

I suppose it was best to merely ride out here, it does Mother as much good as well as the rest of them. So here they are the three old Ladies

| | | | |
|---|---|---|---|
| Betsy Conant | born | May 11 | 1781 |
| Anna Metcalf | " | March 2 | 1787 |
| Esther Vinin | " | Feb. 10 | 1789 |

Three pretty smart old women I think
I wish you could see them. You
must sometime.
Sabbath P.M. Well I did not mail this
letter last night, because it would start
no earlier than 9 A.M. Monday.
I did intend to mail another to you before
we went out to Warwick.
We came back very safely & pleasantly yesterday
afternoon, got here before night. Mother very
well - not tired or cold at all.
To day, very stormy, Mother has not been
out at all. I went to the Unitarian Church.
There was no meeting in the other. I was
not very greatly edified by the polished
Essay upon "the great multitude that no man
can number". I did not remain to the Com
munion, or to see the dozen or more admit
ted to the Church. Tomorrow morning
we shall start again on our journey
though we may stop at Greenfield, and
not get to Elyria till Tuesday night or
Wednesday morning.
I am getting in a hurry, for I am anxious

to hear from you & the little ones, and suppose I can not until we reach there.

My Old Chief & Chum, Mr. A. R. Field is now at Greenfield, upon the Tunnel Route, and hearing I had been at Brattleboro & gone out to Warwick, wrote to intercept me here. very urgent indeed to have me stop there a little while at any rate. I may do so. I have not seen him since I first went West.

I tell Mother I shall tell Anne, & write to Lucy that she (Mother) has been out riding (by horse) the three coldest days this Winter! What will they say to that? Yesterday the Thermometer was not above Zero F. at any time all day here. 13° below in the Morning.

However Mother was very well protected. She had on Aunt Hannah's great Wadded Cloak & Capes, with Shawles all over her head and shoulders, & then closely wrapped up in a covered Sleigh. So she could not be cold.

I did want to go over to Royalston & perhaps should, yesterday morning, if I had had a good horse.

You must go around here sometime Nettie.

I want you should write very often & as particularly as you have time, but write, if it is only a few words, just to let me know you are well with the little ones. No matter if you send two letters the same day to different places, one to Chicago & one to Du Quoin. I fear this letter will not get around to Concord in season for Tuesday's mail.

We thought a little of calling at Mr Hatch's in Warwick, but had hardly time. However Aunt Esther told us all about Mr Hatch's family, & will tell them about us. Mr Hatch you know is dismissed, & a little quarrel some about it I guess, it troubled the good Aunt Esther to tell about it. All the rest of our relatives ~~are~~ about here are Unitarians.

Elyria Jan 12, 1856
Dunbarton Jan 17 1856

Elyria, Ohio, Sat. Jan 12, 1856

My Dear Wife

Well, we have at last arrived here safe and sound. After waiting three days at Buffalo, came here very comfortably in one day, and without much fatigue to mother. Arriving here I was rejoiced with your letter dated of Jan. 3d written & sent only the day after we started, and which arrived here I believe they say on Monday last. I suppose it made the journey before the great storms, and nothing has gotten through the mighty blockade since till now. I trust you have written several times, and that a number of letters are on the way: and I hope, will reach here tonight. It seemed good I assure you to get a letter from you written only one day after I left there, to know that the little boy's mouth was better, and how you all got along the first night; but I am still anxious enough to hear later news from you all. I know you have written, and I think it likely will come to hand tonight.

We did have rather a long and somewhat tiresome delay at Buffalo from Tuesday till Friday. However, we were pretty comfortably situated at the hotel. For three whole days there was no train got through [illegible] on the Lake Shore Road between Buffalo & Erie & Cleveland. And at Cleveland there was but very little snow. At Buffalo, there was not really a great deal of snow, but a constant storm and very much wind. from Monday to Friday.

At Chicago the Thermometer was one day 24° below Zero, and another 19° below. Here & at Cleaveland it was 17° below. I suppose you have seen some accounts of the storm in New York City & elsewhere a week ago tonight, Sat. Jan. 5th. But it was no so severe farther north.
Did I mention to you something of the night we spent at Albany, last Monday night Jan. 7th. We stopped at the Delavan House, you remember it, the great Temperance House. It was very stormy, a great wind and snow. I got rooms for Mother & I connecting, and ordered a fire at once in Mother's. It did not seem to kindle — they were having much difficulty to start fires in many of the flues — In my room they got a good fire started, and so I changed & put mother in the smaller room I had designed for myself. Afterwards the fire in my room got to burning, and it seems with the flue stopped up, or it got stopped up with snow. Mother did not sleep well, and in the night, perhaps One o'clock, Mother thinking her room too warm, opened the door through into mine. There was a great fire, the room very not warm, And — I lay there stretched out on the floor — suffocated with the Coal gas!
What do you think of that? I was not entirely insensible, that is, I could move some, could get up, or try to, and fall down again, I could try to talk, though at first could not say any thing; and did not really know any thing until I waked the next morning.
The wonder is that Mother was not frightened to

to death; I expect she was almost. She worked over me some, and called for help. The Landlord, One who has charge of the house by Night you know, came at once, (on learning the matter from the Porter who answered the bell), And he attended to the case himself closely I warrant you. He would not call a Physician, for the sake of the house you know. (Such a thing known might injure the reputation & business of the house). He worked over me by the hour, rubbing me &c. walking me about, leading me around the halls &c. &c. And of it all I knew nothing! In the morning I waked up with a most horrible head ache, and finding myself in another room from where I went to sleep, with only a dim impression, like the faintest of dreams, of walking about the house with some one, and then getting into a bed very cold & sleepy. I suppose I had really rather a narrow escape. If Mother had not looked into my room in the night — it might have been too late in the morning.

It is curious; I have thought of it many times since, I had a strange presentiment of evil after leaving Dunbarton, a feeling very different from any I ever experienced. It was every night till that Monday night a strange sort of dread, an undefinable fear of something I knew not what; a feeling of impending evil. To be sure, it was about you, or the children. I kept thinking the children must be sick. Sometimes I almost felt it enough to turn about & go back to Dunbarton, if Mother had not been with me. But the next Morning after

after the operation at Albany, it seemed all close on to me. Now is ~~n~~ there not that something curious about that [illegible]?

To be sure I felt better when I got here & got your letter and better yet now I have just read yours of Jan. 7

About that Pocket Book is it not a little strange?

I certainly thought it was about \$75. instead of \$55. in it. You can tell which it ought to be. I had about \$150.00 when we left Bangor; add up in the Expense Book & deduct and you have about the amount it should be.

Father's fingers, – I dont think he takes pains enough to protect them. I wish he had my Fur Mittens. Though he wear two or three pairs, when he goes out.

Do you play out in the barn with Mayo? It is much better for both of you than the Sewing, (which I fear you do).

I mean to start for Chicago Monday, or Tuesday at any rate; for I fear I shall get no more letters till I get there.

Sabbath – An enormous snow storm here. I suppose the weather has been very cold here, but with little snow [illegible] here. I fear I shall not be able to get to Chicago immediately, & I fear I will not hear from you again till I do.

You must [illegible] to Mother. I suppose you wrote last week to Chicago. This week, you will write to [illegible]. You had better write mainly to Chicago rather, and here perhaps.

[illegible] will write to you soon

Love to [illegible] [illegible]

[illegible]

Iowa Decatur Jan 29. 1856
Dumbarton Feb

# Decatur

Jan. 29. 1856

My Dearest

It is my Birthday today. Only to think of it, I am today 34, thirty four years old. It makes me feel almost an old man to think of it. How short the past twelve months seems; and in twelve more, short & fleeting as were those, I shall have reached, if I live till then, one half of Man's appointed three score years and ten. And this is far longer than I can expect my life to be prolonged. And yet I seem to myself to have but just begun to live, in fact not even yet to be fairly started and ready to live a life which is really living. Till some three years and a half ago, "since we met Ettie," I hardly realized what it was to live. Well, shall the latter days be better than the former? Help me, Ettie, mine own, that, at least, I may do my part better than I have done.

I believe I wrote to you Sunday.
Monday I spent the forenoon down in the coal Mine: quite well worth visiting this. Their Galleries extend more than a quarter of a mile already; chambers out in the coal in all directions. Quite a populous place too. A hundred or two of Miners are at work there. They do not live down there yet. But they have a half dozen Mules down there who do, and who are never likely to see daylight again. It seemed curious to go down there from the cold out doors, the snow, and men wrapped up in furs, and see the miners at work half naked; many of them nothing on but a pair of drawers or thin pants, & shoes. Down in the Mine, of course, is an equable summer temperature all the time.

Afternoon I took the [illegible] ferry and rode down to Old [illegible], called at Dr Hall's, Hiram Hinckley's &c. And went round the old place; it looks bad enough, I assure you: It is just as it was when I was there last

summer, only more so. Doors all open, hogs in or out as they please and furniture & every thing all there books & all, as left down stairs. It is lucky the hogs do not go up stairs for up there bedding &c. is all over the floors! It is really strange.

Today, I left Dwight at

10.35 A.M.

7 P.M. reached here.

You remember Mr Marshall wished me to call on his friends for him there. I ~~shall~~ stop here tonight and leave to be back tomorrow morning. I would call there just as well as not, and would, but — I cannot for the life of me remember the name. I noted it in my Memorandum book, but I left that at Rochester. I expect I will find a letter from you at Chicago, I want it bad.

Yours as-

Isaac S.

Isaac.

Matteson House Chicago
Sabbath. Feb. 3 1854
Dunbarton Feb. 9, 1854 Noontime

Dearest

I got nicely taken in this forenoon. I thought I was getting into the New 2d Congregational Church a very neat pretty house just finished, got a comfortable seat, and begun to feel quite at home, when I happened to see just before me ~~old~~ John Pierpoint So I looked round for a Hymn Book & found it the "Unitarian" Hymn & Service Book, a Boston Unitarian Liturgy & Hymn Book. About that time I saw the Minister earnestly inviting old Pierpoint to preach but he would not. It was rather ~~too~~ late to back out, so I sat and heard quite an Eloquent Essay upon the duty of joining the Church by Rush R. Shippen the only Unitarian Minister — of the only Unitarian Church at any rate, of Chicago. He seemed to be a pretty smart young man; & I think the first & only Minister of this only Church. They are evidently wealthy though, and this their new Church, though very plain both outside and in, is in excellent taste, as well as large & somewhat expensive.

I have rarely seen a building, whose interior finish & decorations suited me any better, very plain, but massive & elegant, and in perfect keeping throughout.

Did you know the Unitarians ever used a Liturgy? This Church had one, regular forms of prayers, responses by the congregation &c. &c. a little like the Episcopal, though congregationally modified. This was gotten up by Rev Mr Waterston of one of the Boston Unitarian ~~Associations~~ Churches.

Well, I have just got a good dinner, plenty of White Fish & Prairie Chicken &c. &c. Now I will try to make out better in Church going this P.M.

P.M. Well, I did make out rather better. I got into the First Presbyterian Church of Chicago. The Pastor, Rev Mr Harvey Curtis, after the introductory exercises, said that, at the beginning of the year, in a historical sermon, upon the history of Churches & religion in Chicago, he had told them that it was less than 23 years since a young man landed at the then far out of the way Fort Chicago, whose efforts soon succeeded in founding the

First Church of Chicago with 7 members.
This is ~~now~~ that First Church of Chicago.
And, continued Mr Curtis "I now have the pleasure of introducing to you that young Missionary who 22 years ago formed this First Church of Chicago, Rev. Mr Porter of Green Bay.
Then the said Mr Porter, quite a young looking man by the way, I think most any one would call him under 40 rather than over, proceeded to preach a very good sermon upon Acts 1
The promise of the Holy Spirit, and especially to the Children of the Church.
This 1st Pres. Church, a very fine large house with a large Society, (though the 2d Pres. Mr Patterson's is the aristocratic Church), stands on the very spot where Mr Porter organized his first Church at Fort Chicago. It seemed a little strange to think that so young looking a man could have formed the first feeble church in what is now this great city of almost a hundred thousand souls). And how many years too since then Chicago, as a place of business merely along

merely struggled for existence.
It shot forward rapidly in 37 & 39, when Illinois tried so hard to be some thing & but after that almost went backward. Its grand strides to greatness have been within the last four or five years.

Mr Porter is a very good preacher, but he is not accustomed to preaching in big houses, and he tried too hard to fill the house, and hurt his voice.

Eve. I did intend afternoon or evening to have gone to the Plymouth Church, but they have pulled down their old Church, where I have been, and built another ever so far up town, and it has been so cold and windy today that I did not like to hunt it up. So this evening I strayed into a Methodist Church evidently a big & prosperous one. The Preacher a big stout man, who would evidently be lazy if he was not a Methodist. As it is, he certainly thundered away well. I do like to hear a real large hearted big headed Methodist preacher. His subject was the Pool of Bethesda, and his sermon a thoroughly Methodist One. The Blind were Sinners, the withered were Backsliders, the ~~halt~~ Lame, imperfect Christians, not sanctified. "But, blessed be God, the Angel comes "down now every day, and the Pool is troubled all "the time!" Well he is quite a preacher; I wish I knew his name.

Whether I shall get to Milwaukie tomorrow or not I cannot yet tell. A big train did go through today but I would not go

Good Night & all blessings ~ Isaac ~

Isaac, Chicago Feb. 2. 1856
Dumbarton Febr 9. 1856

Office of the Illinois Central R. R. Company,
No. 48 Michigan Avenue,
Chicago, Feb. 2 1856.

My Dearest

Here I am again writing to you; mainly perhaps for the lack of any thing else to do; and when I sit down to pen, ink and paper I most naturally begin to address myself to you.

I wrote to you last night, but there is no knowing when letters will reach their destinations, or even start nowadays. So one may as well keep writing, even if there is nothing new interesting or important to write. I wrote last night how I was detained here by the snow between here and Milwaukie, and was likely to be until Monday at least. Shall I confess to you what I did after having written to you. I had overlooked the papers for lectures or subjects of ~~entertainment~~ I found that Mr Wight the Editor of the Prairie Farmer was to lecture at Gregory's Com. & Ag. College, upon Agricultural tools &c. So I hunted up the place, and listened quite interestedly to his comparison of the Agricultural tools

fools of different ages and countries, and especial glorification of Illinois & Chicago as bearing the palm high above all others. Its steel plough very far above all others; and the Reapers, Mowers, & Threshers taking undenied preference above those of the World. This lasted from 7 oclock to 8. But the long evening after that! What do you think I did. "Satan finds some business still for idle hands to do". "What a complication of circumstances of temptation; no body who knew me, no possibility of being recognized; safe from detection, or fear of injury to others by my bad example!

What did I do?

I went to the Theatre!!!

Yankee Locke, the great comedian was most prominently advertised to appear in sundry farces, comedies &c. So I went in, and sat very gravely through the whole performance—could not help laughing though sometimes at the jokes and fun of the said Yankee Locke's caricatures of the Yankee Character. It was something like my friend Hanscom of College memory who; shut himself very carefully in his room and deliberately got drunk, merely as a grave philosophical, and physiological Experiment.

And like Hanscom's, I guess the Experiment of Theatre going will suffice.

Today, I have been reading one of Walter Scott's Novels, 'Anne of Gierstien', all the forenoon, and this afternoon have wandered out to the R.R. Office; partly to have some one to talk to; partly in slight hope of finding another letter from you; and partly to find a good chance to write.

So here I sit in Mr Mason's own private room: himself writing before me, and his private secretary, Mr Malmberg, a learned Norwegian, by my side.

Mr Mason is not only a very busy man, but a man of a very great deal of business; more than any man I ever knew any thing about. But I take care not to interfere with his business.

This waiting here does make me long to start for home; but I shall stick it out a while.

I am not going to the Theatre tonight.

Much — All love

Isaac

P.S. Do not let your Economy be alarmed at the thought of my Postage Bill, for just here paper & postage envelope do not cost any thing!

Isaac Milwaukee Wisconsin
Feb. 5. 1856

Office of Engineer and Superintendent,
MILWAUKEE & WATERTOWN RAIL ROAD,

Milwaukee, Feb. 5 1856

My Dearest

Well I do not know as I have any thing to write today; except that I am agreeably disappointed in Milwaukee. It is a much finer place than I had supposed. The Harbor & much of the business is along a little River about the level of the Lake like Chicago: but back, and between the River & the Lake the ground rises finely, so that on one side of the Town the Lake Shore is a fine bluff, which must be nearly 150 feet high. Fine wide Streets too and many nice buildings. It must be healthy & pleasant in that part of the city at least. On the whole it is more of a city and better situated than I had supposed. Pop 30.000 +

The Eng. & Sup. of this road, newly appointed is my old Comrade, E. Q. Sewall, once of Vt. & Mass. R.R.

Ettie, I am almost discouraged about Engineering. I believe I have not spunk to crowd myself into business. There are a good many more applications than

than there are situations, or business for the applicants. And every one who has power or influence in such matters, has plenty of relatives or particular friends whom he wishes to help along. The opportunities for a modest man like myself, who is without influential connections are by no means good.

What shall I do?

Is it not discouraging to feel the ability to do something, and do it well, and find no sort of opening to begin to do, however much one wishes:

What shall I do, Ettie?

Give it up.

I am going out to Madison this afternoon, 4 P. M. Probably stay there tomorrow, and perhaps return to Chicago the next day.

My love to you all, and may Gods blessing go with it.

Sincerely

J. S. Metcalf

From Madison. Feb 6, 1856
Dumbarton Feb. 19, 1856
(Delayed)

Madison, Wisconsin
Wed. Eve. Feb. 6. 1856

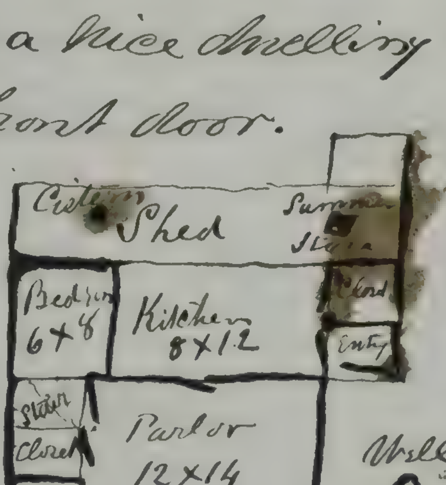
My Dearest

Well, I have not bought City property in Madison yet. Really though I came nearer to it than I ever did any where else. I have really found something that almost suits me. The only lack appears to be that I have no business, occupation here, or any prospect of it. If I had I think I might be pretty well suited here. How would it do to move here this Spring, hire an office, and set up a shingle Civ. Eng. & Land Surveyor. I might possibly earn enough to starve upon for half a dozen years to come. What do you think of it? The property is 4 lots each 4 Rods × 8 Rods, well fenced, one or two cross fences. Most of it a beautiful & well cultivated garden, some forest and ornamental trees ~~around~~ in it, and throughout plenty of choice young fruit trees, Apple, Pear, Peach, Plum, Cherry, just beginning to bear. Claims to have had the nicest peaches in the State last year. Currant & gooseberry bushes. A good well. A first rate Stable 17 × 21, two stories in good shape, new, built for a house. Then the House! I wish you could see it! It would make a fine Martin house, after we could build a nice dwelling house. Let me describe it — beginning at the front door.

Front Entry 4 ft. Square
Parlor 12 × 14
Closet & Chimney 4 × 4
Stair way 4 × 4
Chamber in roof.
That is the house itself

That is the house

Bedroom 6 × 8
Kitchen 8 × 12
Closet 4 × 5
Entry 4 × 5
These in a leanto addition, and a shed back of that.



The situation is a beautiful one; one of the finest about the city. It is nearly 3/4 of a Mile from the State house, In what must be a very fine part of the city eventually. It is on a fine ridge, partly overlooking both lakes. The price is about the same as three thousand dollars cash $3000.00 They call it $3300.00 or $3200.00 Thty is $1500.00 Cash, or rather $630 Now; and $890, June 16. being a Morgage; and $1700.00 in 12 Mos. without interest. The lots unimproved are worth as they are selling around these say $600.00 apeice or near that. The fence is good & New, painted picket fence. The house is is made on purpose, thoroughly made, all bricked inside & well painted, Window blinds throughout. Needs new papering. It belongs to an English Man, a retired Captain of Eng. Army. Who has got homesick, and wants to quit.

The probability is these lots will in a few years be worth $1000. apeice. At least so they say here.

At any rate it is a good bargain, as all property is selling here. I have been looking all day & like the Country.

But the question is what shall I do for a living if we settle here. Can I not do better somewhere else.

So I have not made the bargain. Though they say it will be worth a third more next Spring!

Isaac: Bangor May 22
1856
Dunbarton May 27 - 1856

Bangor Me. May 22d
Thursday evening

Dearest Ottie

I did intend to write a letter to you today at any rate; but here it is too late already; and I have not written; therefore cannot send.
We had a very comfortable journey. Spent the whole afternoon at Lawrence; arriving there about 12 o'clock, and remaining till about 6 P.M. Anna, Mayo & I walked about all over Lawrence, Shopping; that is looking at Shops. &c. &c. Mother remained in the Depot mostly, except looking about the falls & bridges a little. The R.R. ride was very pleasant, left Portland in Steamer Daniel Webster at 12 P.M. It was a very fine night, I got two pretty good

good State Rooms, and we were very comfortable. Mayo behaved like a regular old traveller both by Rail and Steamer, was as good as could be; few companions of any age or sex could be less trouble. I do not know but I could trust him to travel alone. He certainly has a great faculty of taking care of himself.

Arrived at Bangor at 10 A.M. Found all well but Lucy, and they hope she is getting better, though she still coughs considerable and raises much. Maria looks very well. The little Irving is well, and has a tooth or two. He is very plump, & I should think very handsome, but very small. He is about half as large as ours. I believe only 14 lbs.

Samuel & Eliab very busy, as usual, but I guess they have got over the worst of it, and

carried their Bank through besides. Their business seems very good indeed this Spring.

Lucy is very much glad of the apron &c. for Percie, she says not only as an expression of kindness & sympathy, but for absolute necessity; she has neither been able to sew or to get material & set others at work. The little cape is admired.

I am anxious to hear how the babies troubled you last night. And how they are well.

Have Asenath help you much. Let all other things go, and let her take care of babies especially if they are troublesome. Do not get sick yourself or let your Mother.

Friday

I regret much my careless-
ness in not getting a letter mailed
to you yesterday. I went down town
after dinner, & was gone all the
P.M. & when I came back got to
talking til too late, and now
a letter mailed today cannot
get to you on Saturday.
Today I am working in the
garden some. It needs it badly
Leroy being sick, and Samuel
so very lazy, The Irishmen
do not do very well without
an overseer you know
I will hope to get a letter
from you tomorrow, &
am sorry you will not
get one from me.
Your own
J. F.

Bangor, Me. Aug. 26th 1856

My Dearest

Lucy still lives, but is apparently sinking rapidly. I succeeded in getting here last night. Could not get across to the Boston & Maine by the Portsmouth & Concord, the Manchester & Lawrence, or even the Lowell & Lawrence; but getting to Lowell I had just time to jump upon the Salem & Lowell Train which crosses the Boston & Maine at Wilmington Junction. The Eastern Train does not stop there at all, by by running to the right spot at the crossing, and taking advantage of the moment they check the speed at the crossing, an active man without baggage can jump on the Train while in motion. That Train left nearly 500 passengers at a Camp Meeting ground in Kennebunk Me. The extra load delayed so long that we had no time to stop for Dinner in Portland.

to had no stop from 5.30 at Concord till 8 P.M. at Bangor. And after I ate some supper my tooth ached finely at the first part of the night. But today I feel much better.

Lucy sits propped up by Pillows, unable to lie down, or to move at all. She can not speak hardly at all; if she tries it is hardly audible. She has lately but very little pain except shortness of breath: only occasionally a coughing spell, & raising, which hurts her severely.

Oh Nettie, She is dead —

While I was writing the above; it was just after twelve oclock; Maria, who had been up all the forenoon, had just gone; Samuel had just come down stairs; Mother was alone in the Chamber except Mrs Harlow; Lucy wanted to spit, she did once very easily, then her throat seemed to fill; Mr Harlow stepped to the door & called; but in less than half a minute at once, & without a struggle, before any one reached

the room, she was gone. Mother had raised her head up to spit, and even when she laid it back, the spirit had passed.
Oh, how I wish you could see her! now. Every trace of pain or care has gone now. It is Peace, perfect Peace now.
Mother says Lucy had been extremely anxious to live, till within a few weeks; indeed she had much to make her desire life; but lately she has been perfectly reconciled. She told me this morning that it had seemed hard to part with things [illegible], but that now the prospect before her was "perfect joy".
She said too she had wanted very much to see you & the [illegible].
Only a short time before she died, Mother had asked her if she had any dread of death, She answered "Not a bit, Not a bit".

Funeral will probably be on Thursday.

Can not tell when I shall return.

Write to me of every thing Thursday.

Lizzie Wagner

Aug. 26 1856

Dunbarton

Isaac Du Quoin Jan 14, 1857
Elyria –

Du Quoin Jan 14 57 Wed.

My Dearest

My Ettie, No letter from you yet. I am in a great strait to hear from you just think I have away from Elyria one whole week now; seven long days this morning, and do not even know how you got along the very day I left home. I do not know but the fire all went out and you and the Baby both took cold & are sick, I do not know Jennie went to the Doctor that morning, took Medicine & has been sick ever since.

It is too bad of Uncle Sam's Mails to be so slow & irregular; 7 days where a Passenger can come in a day & a night. If I had heard from you in season I should have gone North to Springfield & Dubuque last night, or even the night before.

As it is I wait. I should have considerable to do here laying out Town lots &c. &c. but it is, the ground is frozen too hard now for out of door work. [illegible]

So I have been looking about corners, and some at work making a new plan of the Town & lots &c.
My health & appetite are first rate, and I live very comfortably, sleeping & writing here in Mitchell's Den, working in Keyes' new office; and eating sometimes at the little [illegible], and sometimes at Keyes House. He has a family there this winter from Maine a regular Brownfield River man, who is working manager for a new Coaling operation on the East side.
I suppose you doubtless mailed a letter the morning after I started; and I cannot see why it does not get here. If it does not come tonight, I shall be — [illegible] troubled — or vexed.
If it does I think I shall go north by [illegible] train; get back here not till next week.
How do you get along. You must be [illegible] employing with Polly Ann, and have her do just right. I expect she needs training. I intended to give her a talking too before I left.

As for Jenny I hope & trust she is well & hearty, and enjoys going to school, and at the same time is good, careful, and receives kindly and trustingly the advice of her dear Sister, in all respects.

I want to play with Paul Wilder an hour this morning very much. I should like too to stir up that furnace fire, and go to Market for you. Write me about the new Pork barrel, and what you do with the fresh meat. Does Jenny or any body pull the Baby out doors every pleasant day. There is a nice time at noon. is there not?

All Write - Write

Lovingly

Isaac.

Isaac. DuLuoin Jan 17, 1857
Elyria, Ohio —

Ca Luoirs P. of W. Illinois
Tuesday eve. Jan. 17. 1857

My Dear Wife
Your letter of Feb. 13th, last week Friday, came tonight. I am certainly lucky this week. Last week I believe I got but two letters, though I wrote five I think. This week I have received that number already. Yesterday yours of the 11th, and today of the 13th. Yesterdays troubled me some, with the pleasure of hearing from you, and to think of your getting frightened about the fire. And today of your getting frightened again by the untimely caller. A big & cross watch dog would be an excellent thing about a house to induce such callers to satisfy their desire for information some where else.
Perhaps though I should make a pretty good watch dog myself — Now I think of it I will try to come home and show my qualifications for the post.
Your letter yesterday was a nice one, and one from Jennie too; but my letter last night I guess was only a scrawl. I only wrote a little while waiting for my supper for I was in a hurry unusually so last night.

I am unusually rejoiced at your letter received today. It is quite a mercy to me it came so speedily less time on the road I guess than any other I have had. I was unusually pleased at it, because I had been fearing all day that your fright & exposure the nights of the fire might have made you sick. And I should have felt anxious about it till I got another letter, if it had been a week.
My letters seem to be longer getting from here to Elyria, than yours from there here. You received two last Thursday seven & nine days from here; Mine this week have been only four & five days from you. The Baptists are now talking of starting here at this point some kind of a school. I hardly know whether a ~~school~~ or College or a Theological Seminary, though I suppose they mean a place to educate their young preachers. It is as yet uncertain what they will do.
You have no idea what beautiful weather it is here now. Spring has come here really and in earnest. It has been to today as warm as May. The grass really begins to look quite green; and as for the wheat fields why they are already as bright as June. The cooing, or rather roaring, of the Prairie

Prairie Chickens is heard on every side.
You remember it, and can describe it to Jenny. It is about the half way sound between the roaring of Bull, and the Cooing of doves. Jenny though is hardly familiar with the cooing of doves. Turtles doves are not common in New Hampshire. I have seen them in Massachusetts.
I heard the Prairie ~~Chickens~~ Hens first the 12th
The Frogs commenced about the same day.
The Tree Toads began to croak the 14th.
The frost was all out of the ground here last Week before the rain of Saturday night & Sunday.
Now just remember how pleasant Spring is, and wish you were now in this Climate.
Or think of Maine & New Hampshire, where the snow is now — well, at the least, ever so deep, and the Thermometer below Zero, and be glad you are in your present Climate.
Mr Post yesterday passed round a Church Subscription Paper, and got about A thousand dollars subscribed at once besides two lots ~~for~~ Church & Parsonage from Keyes & Metcalf.
If we call the lots $200.00 each, this with Mr M.s individual subscription of $300.00, And Mr Keyes of $100.00 for his wife (and I guess he will add another hundred) makes K. & M. pretty liberal.
Do you not think so? Dea. Benj. Sprague would not subscribe any thing! His brother A. J. you

remember him, they used to call him John or Alvah — the Cabinet Maker, is angry enough at him. A. J. who is not worth $500. put down $50.00 & Horace Smith $50. G. S. Smith $200.00 Ed Smith $100.00. Do Wall worth more than all the rest put together put down $20.00 They will get $500.00 from the Presbyterian Church Erection Fund, and will get enough more to build $2000.00 worth.

Well, I will go to Bed.

Lovingly thine own

Isaac

Isaac Springfield Ills
Jan 19, 1857

Elyria O

Brown's Capitol House
Springfield, Sangamon Co. Illinois
Monday Jan. 19, 1857

My Dear Wife

Yesterday was Sabbath day; and I wrote no letter to you; You may be surprised at it; but I did not write at all all day. This you know is quite contrary to my usual custom. It has long been a sort of rule or custom with me to write on the Sabbath, to my Mother, my Wife.
I guess it has been rare, if ever, since I was married; that I have spent a Sabbath any where away, that I have not written something at least to you, to the Light of My home. Well I guess the habit is not badly broken; the practice really stopped yet.

But I guess you may well think I have written about enough since I have been away; averaged I guess about a letter a day. Probably it would be much better if my letters were shorter, fewer and better; but somehow I like to think right out on the paper in writing to you.
But I must tell you of my doings here.
I wrote you [illegible] Saturday morning [illegible] going out [illegible] with. I went out, found [illegible] Condit Smith [illegible], [illegible] in a room, he introduced me to some of them. Church used to be

Ill. Central at Chicago.
Went to the State House, & watched the progress of events there most all day long. Some Rail Road Charter Bills in which I feel an interest, St Louis and Paducah R.R. John Logan of Benton seems the great man from Southern Illinois. Spoke to him. He said his bill designated no point of intersecting Ill. Central. We of course want it at DuQuoin. Cylburn of Perry to whom Mr Keyes gave me a letter, professes to be in DuQuoin Interest. He wants a road from Belleville, through Pinckneyville to Ill. Central which would come to DuQuoin.
The Third House, or Lobby is much the larges. So many from all parts of the State wanting some thing or other. Dougherty of Jonesboro is Rep. Col. Hacker, Benj. Wiley, the late Rev Mr Phillips, Land agent, and Land Speculator, &c.
Well, I spent about all the day there; Afternoon and Evening was about all political Speech making, upon Slavery Question, & Governor's Message.
Candid Smith went to Chicago Saturday P.M. to stay only over Sabbath; and to my convenience R. B. Mason, whom I want to see, is expected here on Monday night.
Sabbath day, I went out early, and looked into several Churches before Meeting time. Finally stopped in the Third Presbyterian Church; the Pastor of which is I believe a Mr Dodd. New School. I did not

very much like him. Seemed to be more a fine essay than a sermon. However he is rather a pleasant speaker.

There is of course no afternoon meeting here. I looked into and got to reading the "Hills of the Shatemuc", and kept reading it till I read it through. I do not know but it was naughty, I suppose it was. But I do believe it did me good, that it was better for me than the sermon I heard this forenoon. It is a good book, any one ought to be better for reading it. I had bought it to read in the cars or sometime.

Well I cannot tell how long I shall stay here. or whether I shall go North or South from here. I expect to see Mr Mason here tomorrow. and after that may [illegible].

Your [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] to morrow, if I am lucky. [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] [illegible].

Well I guess I better go over to the State house.

Much [illegible]

Your Son
Isaac

Isaac Feb. 2, 1857 - Du Luoin
Elyria Ohio

Du Luoin, Mon. Eve. Feb. 2d 1857

My Beloved

I did not get any letter today. None Saturday. I wrote a slight letter to you yesterday Sabbath P. M. Mailed this Morning; but I believe I must write some more tonight. I did intend to work out doors today laying off lots, but it is rather colder, & the ground still frozen so much that we concluded to put it off. So this forenoon I spent in Keyes & M.'s office, Mr Keyes being absent. I only sold one Town Lot for $50.00 and did not get the pay down for that. This afternoon I mounted "Old Jenny" (you remember Mr Keyes old Mare that you & Mrs Keyes used to drive) and took a ride. Stopped a spell at the Upper St John's Coal Mines, Mr Ashley's place originally. Had quite a conversation with Mr Tuttle one of the Proprietors, who happened to be present. They are evidently quite afraid of the R. R. Company commencing to mine here for themselves; and no wonder. I do not know but it is to be hoped they will not;— for the interests all around. By trying to monopolise they might injure the business all around, and themselves in the end. (Tuttle thought the R. R. Co. had much better attend to their freight business. You know the business of the road has

has increased beyond their expectations and this winter they have not any where near the Engines & Cars necessary to do the business offering. The Illinois Central R.R. Co. now needs a Million of dollars worth of rolling stock, Engines and Cars, more than they now have. And that is something which cannot be obtained in a day even if they had the money to purchase which they have not.
They have been rather unfortunate this winter, in disabling Engines & cars. The winter has been rather a hard one for rolling stock. And they are now dreadfully short. Another thing is the road is in bad condition; is very badly managed. Mr Osborn the President is not much of a R.R. Man; is decidedly unfit for his place. Mr Doane the Superintendent who was killed last summer, was getting into the business, and might probably have done very well. His death was a great loss to this Co. It is a great thing to Superintend a road like this 700 miles of it. It requires a greater man than for President of the U.S. by all you can imagine almost.
They cannot fill Mr Doane's place; and I believe the management of the road is growing worse and worse.

I wrote Sabbath Afternoon, so I could not tell you in my last about the Preaching yesterday evening. I liked Mr Post more and better. he preached in the evening without notes, and did very well. His text was "Worship God". It was by no means elaborated or polished; no special elegance of language; no depth of thought; no great clearness of doctrine; yet it seemed to be just about the thing for the people here; it showed a well cultivated, & a well ~~read~~ informed mind, a forcible & effective style, a direct manner which tells upon the hearers, and all the elegance of language, ~~soundness~~ of doctrine, or profundity of thought necessary. I am inclined to think he is just the man for the place; And I wish he could be settled here and preach here all the time.

Well I want to hear from you.

I think I will get letters tomorrow.

Well, if I have not written anything tonight maybe I will tomorrow night.

Kiss the Baby for me, and get him to kiss his Mother ~~every~~ so much on my account.

Good night, and Comfort to you all.

Sincerely, truly, respectfully, and Affectionately, with very much love,

Isaac

Isaac Du Quoin, Feb. 5. 1857
Elyria —

La Conyers Perry Co. Illinois
Thursday Feb. 5. 1857
Evening

My Wife

I wrote you last evening perhaps rather — not entirely discouraged, or absolutely melancholy — ly slightly disappointed and considerably longingly.
I had got no letter from ~~Wednesday~~ Friday to Wednesday. Tonight I feel better, for I have got two letters, yours of Jan. 28th & 30th, last week Wednesday and Friday. One of them eight days on the way, the other six. Well I am consoled right smart. The letters are not very long both of them; but they are sweet. It does me ever so much good to know you are getting along so comfortably. I am pleased that you have got a new girl who does well. I am much more glad that you all seem to be so well and comfortable.
(My letters seem to be delayed as much or worse than yours, You rec'd none from Saturday 24th to Friday 30th. I guess there has hardly been two days at a time that I have not written to you since I left home. Often every day

In your last letter comes a Protest on one of those Drafts I drew on F. & M.
Strange how it could have happened.
I certainly notified Eliab of it distinctly enough, and twice over.
It is a great peice of carelessness on their part. Somehow.

In my last letter to you mailed this morning I sent you a Draft, (Montgomery & Co. of Buffalo on Park Bank N. Y. for Fifty dollars ($50.00) Endorsed to Lorain Bank.
I wish now it had been for Two hundred.
I will send another with this tomorrow if I can get it. Probably however I can not in season for tomorrow's morning mail. But I will as soon as possible, say by the next mail.
I am vexed almost about that Protest.
I hope the others will not come back the same way. I must write to Eliab about it tonight.
I really cannot tell whether the amount and costs I must pay at the Lorain Bank or in Boston. At any rate, if I send money to you or the Judge, and write to Eliab, I guess it will come right in the end, one way or the other.

I seem to get along rather slowly here lately. Mr Keyes is most sick, and every thing moves slowly. The Weather is good enough overhead though it thunders rains every day, it does not rain but is very warm but the mud is enormous. Why I think I would be speaking within bounds to say that, throughout all Southern Illinois, on an average, the mud is less than knee deep. And that DuQuoin village is no exception I can certify, for I have waded in it deeply & extensively. It is very muddy.
I am glad you have begun to go to the Sewing Circle. How do you like it? or rather how well did you expect to like it? I do not expect I would like it much. You say people say they would like to get acquainted with me. Perhaps they would like it better than I would. Perhaps I will take part of that back. However I wish I were there to try it.
Well, it is getting late. Praise Jennie a little for me when she is a good girl. Kiss P.W. smartly on my account; and request him to kiss his Mother for me.

Undoubtedly
Yours, &c.

Irene Du Quoin Feb. 6, 1857
Elyria, Ohio –

Du Quoin Feb. 6, 1857
Friday Evening

Dearest

To night came your good letter of Monday, Feb. 2d. The best time yet. Enclosed was also two pages from Jennie; for which she may hereby consider herself specially thanked. I perceive now that she is a very good girl. If I send this letter tomorrow morning it will make one every day this week — No. – Monday 1, Tuesday 1, Wed. none, Thurs. 1. Friday 1, Saturday 1. Really I believe you must get tired of them. However I shall keep on writing them just for my own comfort, whether you tire of them or not.
So last Saturday you got three letters at once It must have been a surfeit. It is lucky you had Sunday the next day to read them in. Mortal long ones too some of them.
I am glad you like the new girl.
What became of Polly Ann?
How much was she overpaid when she left?
Does Paul Wilder get acquainted with the new Girl?

Oh I found a great wonder in your last letter: I think I never saw the like before — a word spelled wrong in my Mattie's writing. It caught my eye the first moment I guess I will not look at Jennie's quite so critically. I am afraid Jennie you study other things too much, and do not take time enough for your Arithmetic. Do you have any blocks to explain, or help you understand, the Cube Root?

Is Mr Robbins has trouble about his school. Well, that is nothing very strange. It is not to be expected that he would be universally popular & successful.

I am glad you do so well Jennie about Compositions. How is is about Parsing, and analyzing the English language? Look out especially for the Arithmetic & Algebra.

And still more especially to be careful of your health. Will you not? Is Mr Anderson cross? Which do you like best of them?

This Du Quoin Station property you know cost Mr Keyes & me about $3500.00 for the whole Four hundred acres. The Sales up to Jan. 1st 1857 amount to considerably over $10.000.00; from which I have received but little over $1600.00 Jan. Sales some $2000.00 or more.
I forgot to say that of the $10.000.00 two or three hundred more than half belongs to my share. Most of the Sales you know are for Notes on interest. The least estimate of the value of the unsold land would be $20.000.00 Besides fifteen or twenty acres which belongs to me alone, the part which we divided, and Mr Keyes has now sold with his new house for $6.000.00 The land being called $3500.00. I intend to keep my part a spell and get something for it. It is in demand now, but I tell people I have laid that by for my children.
I made out a Coal Lease a day or two since which binds the lessee to pay Keyes & Metcalf not less than $500.00 per annum. The revenue of it may amount to $3000.00 per year.

I could not get any Draft or large bills today. The Merchants sent all they had off the day before. Tomorrow I think I can get Check from the Du Quoin Female Seminary Trustees or Treasurer.

Gold is very plenty here this Winter, but it is not good to send by letter. Did I tell you of the five Car loads, fifty Tons of bullion that went by here on one train last week? $2.500.000.00 worth. One of the Cars broke down in the timber down below here at Midnight.

You did not write how the Stove Wood held out. How is it about the Apples? Are Chickens plenty yet? I wish I could send you some Prairie Chickens, or Ducks which now begin to be plenty. Most Assuredly Your

Isaac

{Isaac - Feb. 8. 1857
{Du Quoin Ills.

Elyria Ohio

Mitchell's Room I. C. R. R. Depot
Du Quoin Perry Co. Illinois
Sabbath Afternoon Feb. 8th 1857

My Beloved

Yesterday we had no Mail; there was no Passenger or Mail train from the North. At One o-clock this morning it came along at last, and left an open Mail bag with a few letters. To day noon the Night train got along, and brought Abram Mitchell; and between us we took the liberty to ransack the old open Mail bag; and to my extreme delight brought to view your letter of Wednesday Feb. 4th. Nothing from me since the Saturday before. It is too bad the way the Mails work. However if the Mails ever do get through and you get all the letters there will be enough of them. This last week I I mailed to you five letters, the week before four letters, and I guess as many every week since I left home. Wait, I will consult my memoranda. I left home Jan. 7. I have al-ready mailed to you twenty one letters! I declare I pity you, now I reflect upon it, to have such a mass to read. It is well they do not all come at once or I do not know what you would do. However I shall keep on at any rate, just for my own pleasure in writing to you.

But your letter is not all good — bad cold. - headache.
I reckon that when you went out to call the day
before, it was just before a rain, the worst of all
times to take cold, the air full of the coming moisture
chilly with it; and you took cold, getting a little
tired made you all the more likely to do so. I sus-
pect that drawing the baby in wheel carriage so
far over the Doctor's through the snow is rather hard
and tiresome to you. You should not do it, if it
be too much for you. The being out of doors abun-
dantly, and exercise too out of doors is just the best
thing almost for you if the exercise be not too severe.
Write to me particularly about your health.
I sent you last Thursday a Draft for fifty dollars.
The next day I got your letter with a Protest from Foster
Enclosed. Yesterday I intended to send you another Draft
or Check, but did not succeed to see Dr Wall from
whom I could get it, the Merchants not having that
or any thing to send, in season. Perhaps it is just
as well. The Mail train up yesterday ran off the
track three or four miles north of here, and left
the cars sticking in the Mud there still.
I have fifty or sixty or more dollars in gold in
my pocket now which I wish was in your
pocket instead of mine now.
I could get of Dr Wall only a hundred dol-
lar Check which I will enclose in this tomorrow
You can give it right to the Doctor, or any thing
else I may send you of the kind. I must

I must send along some more when convenient. There will be a fifty dollar payment to be made on the Rent of the house about this time. The Lease is at the Bank, and they will look out for that if I only have money enough there.

It is a dreadful time on the Rail Road tracks here just now: the ground has been frozen very hard here, very unusually so for this country; and now the frost just coming out; makes the track bad enough.

Last Wednesday two freight trains came in collision just below Carbondale. It was a mighty crash, no fault of the track this was'nt, but two heavy freight trains at full speed on a sharp curve in the woods; the men jumped off uninjured, or only bruised somewhat. The Engines almost a total loss. Many loaded Cars, freight &c piled in one absolute smash; I supposed the loss would be fifty thousand dollars but it turns out all the smashed cars on one train were Coal, only twenty dollars per car, and on the other Iron, not much injured. So the loss is only twenty five or thirty thousand. But it was a mighty wreck, two a day or two to get a new track laid around it so that trains could get by. The men who had been at work there were only on their way back yesterday, when the track gave way, & the train ran off the track just above here, that was before Noon yesterday; but by a little after Midnight

they got the next train, due at 3.45 P.M., of the wreck. Friday a train ran off the track at Ramsey near Vandalia, yesterday another at Tacusah, in fact the Road is decidedly unfortunate just now; far worse than it has ever been before.

The Preaching today does not amount to much being the Campbellite brethren, Dr Fundy, the horse jockey. Did I tell you the story of his swapping a onehundred & fifty dollar gold watch for a wild horse; and the watch proving to be a galvanised affair he had bought for twenty dollars.

The Other preacher was Elder Heeps, I do not know whether you ever saw him, lives up near Rootz, a big blustering horse jockey of a Campbellite.

But I expect either Peter Hagler or Mr Winn, a Methodist mechanic, excellent man so called, resident here, will preach this evening.

The prospect now is that there will be four Churches built here this Season. Peter Hagler is about building him a house here. It bids fair in the Village to have a great variety of morality and religion in it.

With Love & Respects

P. Little

Isaac Dulaque Feb 10 1857
Elyria Ohio –

Du Quoin, Feb. 10, 1857
Tuesday Evening

My Dearest Ollie,

Well, I have not been troubled today by either Mud or water, as I was yesterday. It has been very cold for this country. The poor Suckers who have been drawing chain, and carrying & driving stakes have complained bitterly of the cold. Still it would be only a comfortable winter's day at the East, rather unusually warm and pleasant for a sunshiny day; thawing considerably in the Middle of the day. Still the Prairie winds are somewhat raw, even to a Yankee; and I may as well acknowledge it for my face flushes & glows lastly after the old time sort; just as it always does after exposure to Winter's wind.
Well I have done a pretty good days work. I had Bradford Brinnan to help today, so I have not had to stand at the Instrument so much, which is quite a comfort to me. I think I can get all the Lot Stakes I want placed in one day more. Then there is the Branch Rail Road Location to be attended to. And I hardly know what else yet

But I did not get any letter from Home tonight. I had been flattering myself all the day that I would have that treat at night. But when I got around to the Post-Office, it was "Nothing for you tonight, Mr Metcalf;" and thus was this poor individual disappointed. Well, maybe I will not be so tomorrow.

Now I think of it, Do you hear any news from the Cosmopolitan Art Union? I suppose the distribution was the 28th of Jan. When I left home I did not know but I would be coming home at that time & stop to attend it. Oh dear when will I get home?

Last night was a grand Ball at Frizzell's Hall in DuQuoin. They have been having a Dancing school here, and so wound up with a Ball — Very select — Tickets $5.00 ~ great complaint among the Suckers who do not like Yankee notions. Among the Suckers all things of that sort are open to all. But I must finish the Ball Story. By the first train this morning the Dancing Master — left. He left among other things his Board Bill unpaid, and also omitted to pay the poor fellow who fiddled for him. The old proverb says that "Those that dance must pay the fiddler." But here the poor fiddler evidently does not get paid.

Wed Morning Early
Thermometer 12° + of F.
Yesterday 8° + –
so the weather is moderating.

If the stove wood runs low, you can perhaps trouble the Doctor to send up a load or two of dry wood, & get a man to saw it & throw it in the back cellar

Take good care of yourselves
Sincerely
Isaac –

Isaac. DeQuoin, Feb. 15. 1857.
Elyria Ohio

Du Quoin, Perry Co. Illinois.
Sabbath Afternoon, Feb. 15 1857

My Dear Ellie

Last night I received your dear letter of the Eighth; written part of it just one week ago today and mailed last Monday. You had just been hearing one of Mr Wilburs excellent Sermons. I did not make out near as well as that that day. I wrote to you about the Sabbath here.
Today it is far better. It is however a very rainy day; a really great rain indeed; but there were a dozen or more men out to hear Mr Post preach — no women however.
He preached almost without notes from "The earth is full of the goodness of God." He quoted Lieut. Maury's "Physical geography of the Sea," in relation to the influence of the Gulf Stream; also quoted Hugh Miller, & Guyot's theory of the differences of Nations on sides of East & West Mountain ranges, & their homogeneity on sides of North & South ranges. Perhaps he stated this theory rather more plainly than I have thought. He made it all plain & applied it to the United States, that God has written its history in the North & South Mountains & rivers, as the greatest & richest & undivided Nations.
Enlarging upon the prospects & duties of the people of this country; he finally came down to DuQuoin, its prospects, its people, and their duties.
He said it was probable that this would be the most important place in Southern Illinois — probable — almost certain — necessary —; and it behoved the good people here now, for the sake of themselves, their children, & their children's Children, to put into their energies now and visit the right influences [illegible]

now, before the thousands of Miners & others, degraded ignorant sensual should outnumber our side out influence there and their village. It was comparatively easy to start things right here now. What would it be when in a few years there were four or five thousand souls here.
He said as the storm prevented others that he was talking only to menfolks, and he told them their duty pretty plainly I thought.
They must have cold times at Dunbarton this winter. I pity the old horse. Perhaps though your father allows him a blanket when it is so very cold. Are you not glad you live in a more genial climate? Do you not wish you lived still farther South, say here. I do think that this right here is about the finest climate I have ever known any thing about. It is incomparably so for nine months in the year say from Oct. 1st to June 1st, and usually perhaps half the rest of the time. There is one exception though to the winter ~ the Mud, ~ That however is probably by no means as bad as in Ohio. There is nothing quite equal to the warm rich sunny haze of the Winter days here. The New England Indian Summer weather is only an imitation of it. It is weather with which both "Wawbun" & "Shawandasee" might be satisfied. See Hiawatha.
Merrick Brigham at Bloomington. What is his business? Address &c.? I go to see him? Perhaps.
Uncle Elmer call at Elyria on his way out. Of course he can ~ and must ~ write and tell him &c. Exactly on the main best through route. Great Lake Shore Line ~ Most convenient stopping place on it; through tickets ~ stop over,

no sort of expense to stop, only the time — saving &c to stop & rest on a long journey. Must stop, and undoubtedly will stop, at any rate. Write to him at once, please.

I would not be out of apples if you can get more. Doubtless you can at Austin's, if no where else. They may cost more there; but I would have them at any rate — both on your own account and little Wilder's too.

So it seems you are getting a good deal, or considerable acquainted among the good folks of Elyria. How many calls have you made?

"Evil communications corrupt good manners". The Sunday letter writing example contaminating you. I am sorry for your smitings of conscience; but decidedly glad of the letter notwithstanding. I guess the balance of good is on our side upon the whole

I do not want Wilder to forget me. I must go home on that account, even if I have to come out again very soon.

Money. I hope you have got some before this time. I mailed a fifty dollar draft to you on the 5th inst. And a hundred dollar check on the 9th inst. I presume you got them both in the course of last week. Answer [illegible], of course.

I mailed a letter to you every day last week till yesterday [illegible]. Of course there could not be much in them. As a whole I judge they were not worth reading. If I had written only one in course of the week, or two short ones, they might be better worth reading. I undertook to write every day in the week, being vexed at the Miss because you did not get any letters for whole weeks I thought. I would be sure to write often enough. Fri.

But Friday, working out doors all day, I was to busy in office all evening, I omitted

Since I have not written a letter to Mrs. Widdler.
I have written to her twice before since I have been in Illinois. [illegible] You suppose she will come out this spring to Algeria? You and Emma must write to her to persuade her to do so, if you can. I guess she will. Samuel will try too to persuade her to come with him.

You speak of Jenny's Sabbath Afternoon Bible Class. What is it? Is Mr Brooks the Teacher? Is he a good one? Is the Class a good one? Who are they? Young Ladies? or Gentlemen & Ladies? Jenny does not go to the Sabbath School does she?

Mr Post preaches again this evening. It does not rain now, clears off just before night after a great rain. And the whole country is almost under water. The whole Prairie looks afloat. But I guess I can get to the School house without going over the tops of my [illegible] boots.

When shall I get home? Well I do not know. I think I will get through here this week some time, in the course of the week I am pretty certain. Then, I am undecided whether to go home or to Iowa. I want to go home, I do not know but I ought to go to Iowa.

Well Good Night. I go to Church.

I thought I had finished this letter; but I have got back from Meeting & find here is a little more room: I was late to Meeting this morning most half an hour early, R.R. time. I intended to be in season; but it is hard deciding upon the exact time of Candle lighting. I like Mr. Post, and with [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] time. You would almost be amused at the contrast between [illegible] [illegible]. The idea of Mr Post, his gestures are all made with the closed fist.

However I like him & think he is [illegible] [illegible] good here. Quite an audience [illegible] [illegible] & [illegible] Yours [illegible]
[illegible]

Elyria, Monday, 16 Feb, 1857

My dearest;—

I believe I have had two letters from you since I wrote on Friday - one written the 5th the other the 6th. O the letters are such a comfort! You speak of the Protest - Anna said that the Dr. had heard from Eliat, and that he sent money in season, & the Express Co. lost it, and he had set them to work to hunt it up. In that case, you will not have it to pay, will you? It is too bad altogether. We have a little mud here. It rained all night before last & all last night quite hard, and the the water stands all about. I must go to day to Mr Crandall, and get him to come and put in a piece of the cistern conductor that tumbled out Saturday -

Those two rains have been lost to the lower cistern on that account. The upper tank is half full; about. A dutchman came and took away twelve bushels of ashes, Friday & Saturday - paid me six cents per bush. Wanted to pay in tallow candles but I told him we did not burn them. — There were four stores burnt out at the fire -
Clark - flour & feed -
Neatfoot - furniture
Bullock - Hard Ware
Northrup & Harman. Tinman -
Great sympathy for all but Neatfoot - He is rich, and beside did not lose anything - got all his furniture out - building belonged to Muzzy.
Northrup & Harman lost $11.00.
$700.00 Insured $400.00 worth of tools lost. They young - just commencing.

Wilder does not feel very well these days - looks rather pale - His upper gums are very badly swelled indeed He is kicking on the floor with his thumb in his mouth and the indispensible napkin in his little hand - Dear little one; he comes lugging the pillow to me when he wants to go to sleep or to rest. I've given him his kisses, and he kisses his mother very sweetly - when he has a mind. Hattie & Libbie were both here after school Friday - ate rough nuts & gingerbread buns for lunch as they could not stay to supper - Anna does not love to have them come to dinner Except when she tells them so - I imagine she will tell them, today - It is so wet. I sent a Valentine to Libbie Saturday whereat she was greatly delighted!

Their mother sent them two apiece writing one set back handed. The others they laid to her charge at once but thought the back-handed ones from Jennie - And Hattie, with this impression, sent one to Jennie as a reply. Anna came over to tell Jennie to keep dark. I got baby a new pair of shoes Saturday - and we had some very nice steak for dinner that day & yesterday which I wish you could have helped us eat. Two & a half lbs. made us two meals & a hash. We have not been able to get chickens at all since you went away - The butcher says he does not have them at all. The kitchen wood holds out yet - but I expect I ought to be getting some sawed.

Ann called for her clothes, after

Tell me what my Lizzie [illegible] Lollie?, Do
I must not forget it -

5)

She had been gone about three weeks - wanted pay for the last two days she was here including washing - I had paid her up to Sat. night & she left Monday night - I had not deducted for the four days absence because the smallest money I had then was a 2,00 bill, and I had no thought then of her not returning of course - I told I had already paid her for two days when she was gone and I could not give her any more. Anna said I ought to have asked her to pay me back for the two days, but I thought it would be of no use and only make a fuss. She took the pillow case that belonged in her room, when she went the Monday night, to put some of her clothes in - I missed it & asked her when she called where it was - She told me she took it, &

forgot to bring it back - but would
bring it the next week but she
did not, and I presume never
will - I am sorry - it breaks a pair.
Elisabeth is very capable. So
much neater than Ann -, She
has the reputation of being wilful
not staying long at a place. If
anything does not suit her, she
leaves - Goes out little and has
little company. Wilder won't stay much with very
Mr. Robbins' case was delayed from
Wed. till Sat. - Occupied afternoon
& Eve of Sat. and I do not know yet
the result or whether it was decided
Mr. Robbins preached last Eve. Mr.
Wilbur seemed to have a cold affecting
his voice some. Mr Robbins subject -
What is the ultimate End of man's
Existence and what the highest
good to be attained - very good
& interesting. Mrs Goodspeed & Mrs Cooley called
Saturday - O how we shall rejoice when you

can be with us again - The garden will need somebody ere long if this weather continues - But I want you to stay till you are through so you need not go directly back.

Your prospects seem good regarding the Du Quoin property - It is pleasant to have enough for ourselves and some to give away too. But life seems so frail a thing to me - Once I could not realise that our dear little ones could _die_, but now when I look at little Wilder, _I feel_ that he is only lent. _I feel_ that he may die - We may have other little ones to love - but _all may die_ - Still I know we ought to prepare to live, as well as try to be ready for death. Sad thoughts _will_ come to me.

How many acres was your last purchase & was it coal land, or only near the coal. If I remember, that farm was higher land than most about it.

16th Feb. 57

Isaac Duquoin Feb. 20. 1857
Elyria Ohio

Du Quoin
on Friday Evening Feb. 20 1857

Dearest

Last night I wrote you a letter, having none to reply too. Tonight I am more fortunate, having just received yours of the 16th; Seven nice pages from you, and two or three from Jenny to boot. I am very much obliged to both of you therefor.
You had received two letters from me those mailed the 6th & 7th. The one with $100.00 Check had not yet come to you. I presume Elisha will attend to the Protest matter. It is nothing serious in the end.
You have a little Mud in Elyria! Is it possible? We have a little here. I do not know the exact depth. The Strata of 'diluvium' or 'drift', geologically speaking, is here generally from 10 to 50 feet in thickness, super imposed upon Lime Stone; and for practical purposes it would do very well to consider it and the present mud as similar and convertible terms.
It was really quite a fire for Elyria. I am sorry for Northrup & Hannon. They were not able to lose, and I like them first rate.

Tell Mrs DeWitt that if she does not want her young ladies to dine out without leave, that she must give them leave. Dinner will not hurt school girls even if it is no better than they can get at Aunt Nettie's. One thing things I should like to tell Anna she might direct the girls not to eat Cake at Aunt Nettie's or any where else. — that is, I would tell her so - if it were not that you would all say it was only my "silly prejudice against Cake."

Chickens - you could not get any. It is very like the butcher would not keep them - he prefers to sell his Meats. The place to get Chickens is at the Stores, Starr's, or Knowles.

Your wrong spelling. Did I not write you the word? I have forgotten it now entirely. It was nothing.

I think you got off excellently well with Polly Ann if you only overpaid her two days, and she carried off only a pillow case. It is certainly a very lucky escape. I hope the present Betsy will be better yet. It seems a pity that she & Wilder do not agree better. But I would always hate to leave a child much with any girl I was not fully acquainted with. The little Child cannot tell if it is abused, or if anything is wrong.

Geo. T. Wall, Abram Mitchell, C. A. Keyes and I. S. Metcalf bought of Hiram Pyle, Jan. 1857 56 [illegible] acres of Prairie Cultivated land at $50. per acre. Said land lies on the east side of the R. R. track and

adjoining the same, immediately north of Keyes & Metcalf's
village of DuQuoin. It will sometime be all
laid out doubtless and sold as village lots; and
it is also ~~doubtless~~ all of it undoubtedly Coal Land.
The Ashley Coal Mines are One Mile due North
of it. The New "Tilley Coal Mine", the most favorable
opening yet made is just across the R.R. Track on
its S.W. Corner, on land sold by said R.&M. for Coal
Mining purposes. The New Mines to be opened this
Spring, and for which I am just locating R.R. Track
are just at its S.E. Corner. The Frizzell mine
very favorable worked on a small scale for a
year past is half a Mile S.E. Some Coal has
been worked all along East & North East of it.
In short there is no land promises fairer as Coal
land than does this. In this regard it is a great
bargain. But One year ago or less it was offered
at one half, viz. $25.00 per Acre. Three years ago
I presume it could have been bought for about
One quarter, $12.50 per Acre. Five year ago for
probably less than half of that.
Vancil the Landlord has just today sold
out the "DuQuoin House", for $2500.00
Cost him in all about $1500.00 and he has
made lots out of it too.
The farm ~~was that~~ we bought was not the Pyles farm
you remember, that is East of the Station.
The Widow still owns 40 acres of that & won't sell.
The Other 40 acres belongs 28 acres to Edmund Pyle

Two acres to Dr. Wall, and 20 acres to our new Coal men who bought Keyes house.
It has rained here most all the week.
today some, and a raw chilly air besides.
But I have been out part of the time when it did not rain too much locating the new Coal Rail Road.
Illinois Legislature adjourned Thursday morning in a fine quarrell.

I did think I would go home next week. Mean to yet; but dare not promise. There are many little things to attend to.
I have hardly given up going to Iowa either. I expect I ought too.

Your Own
Isaac

P.S. It is Eleven oclock ~ My Bed time

Isaac Du Quoin Feb. 22, 1857
Elyria Ohio

Du Quoin, Sabbath P. M. Feb. 22d

My Dearest

Would you have believed it? Abram Mitchell sits here, and writes a letter to a lady every Sabbath. Well, he uses this kind of paper, and doubles the lines throughout; two lines to every one of these, and four full pages at that usually. The letters he replies to are just about the same sort. He has the ladies miniature, but will not show it to me. Whereat I laugh at him, and tell him it is boyish.

I did not get any letter last night as I hoped to do. However I will not much complain. I have fared pretty well the past week; had at least three during the week, and the last one received Friday night, written last Monday ~~night~~, was seven excellent pages from yourself, and three from Sister Jennie. Well the letters, the letters, are the principal comfort for a poor fellow away. Not by any means that I am uncomfortable here; but that I should be more comfortable at home. I do want to see you all very much. especially (My Ettie, and my baby boy. I have never seen him walk.

This forenoon I have been at meeting: I went up at 10 o'clock to Sabbath School: There were very few there, as the Mud is so very bad few could get there, none from out of the Village. The Preaching at 11 o'clock was by Dr Fondy, the horse & watch trader (I believe I wrote to you about him). He is the Big Gun of the Campbellites – If however they do not turn him off for getting found out in his horse & watch jockeying – He preached rather better than when I heard him before, but – Oh dear! it was only words, words, words. I am heartily tired of such preaching: This Afternoon is a Methodist Class Meeting: but I did not conclude to attend it. This Evening Peter Hagler is to preach, and I shall attend I think; if it is muddy & dark. I do very much wish that Mr Post could preach here all the time and live here – stay here all the time himself. I know his influence would be worth so much the the place. It would affect its whole future. I have offered to give One hundred dollars per year towards his salary, if he could be here all the time – One hundred dollars a year till the people here are able to support him which would not be long I think. I think it would be done, if the Carbondale interest did not keep him there. As it is, it is probably of no use to think of it his being here all the time.

I do not intend to stay here many days more. Mr Keyes did not get home yesterday, but he doubtless will tomorrow. I shall fix up here as soon as possible, and get away in a few days. I want badly enough to go right home, but perhaps I shall conclude to go up to DuBuque first. At any rate I shall come home pretty soon as I can. And it will not be best to write any more to me here. after you get this letter; for I will not be here to get the letters if they come here.

Eve. I have just been to Meeting. through the much mud underfoot, and the beautiful evening in every ~~other respect~~. It is magnificent; most brilliant star light (the evening star rides high and really casts a shadow); and the evening air is mild and balmy as June. It is a regular June evening for New England. There has been no frost here for most two weeks now.

Peter Hagler preached in his hard way. The man is certainly to be much respected for the excellence of his character, the amount of his influence, and the good he has done in this country. This part of Illinois certainly owes much to Peter Hagler. The high character of Perry County compared with the Counties about is in great degree due to the influence of this one ignorant, simple minded, unpretending man

but for all that it is rather hard ___ to hear him preach sometimes.
At the Close of services he gave Notice that he would hereafter preach here not only the evening but all day or any part of it not otherwise occupied every second Sabbath of the month; and also that the Baptists proposed as soon as Spring opened to build themselves a Church here.
Four Churches here is a soon will be pretty well for one year. But possibly they will not all get builded this summer.
The Audience out tonight was quite respectable in spite of the mud. I guess it always is when Peter Kagler preaches. Very few females out though.
Oh I did want to be at home so today.
I do want to see you all.
Good night, Ettie, My Ettie; Kiss P. W. for me.
If I were there now I should wake him up kissing him; and perhaps kiss his Mother somewhat also.

Good night & all good blessings to you

Chas

Isaac Duquein Feb 23. 1857
Elyria Ohio -

DuQuoin
Monday Morning Feb. 23d 1857

Ettie My Ettie
To night came your letter of 18th inst.
Even letter from home is a treat; and the longer I am away from home, not only the more I want to go home, but the more I both long for and enjoy the letters from home.
It seems my letters are nearly twice as long lately in getting from here to Elyria, as yours is coming from there here.
I am glad you have warm weather there. Here it has been very warm for nearly two weeks. This morning there was the least tinge of hoar frost upon boards none showed upon the ground. And it was the coldest morning I think since Feb. 11th. Most of last week was cloudy & rainy. Yesterday and today as clear and bright as could be and air as mild and soft as June or the latter end of May in New England.
Your first visit to the West Falls! I did not think that you had never been there before. If the rains continue at Elyria you will be likely to have Cistern water enough to last awhile. Do you

you will be letting it into the Water pipes from the upper tank? Cannot very well I suppose on account of the non connection at the Stove.
You could though by shutting the cocks in the connection pipe in the kitchen so as not to let the water into the Cylinder at all. You let in the water by turning a stop cock under the east end of the upstairs tank, you know, first closing the two stop cocks at the head of the waste pipes in the back cellar.
I will fix it all right when I get there.
Mr Keyes arrived from St Louis tonight reports the Ohio & Mississippi R.R. from St Louis to Sandoval, on the Ill. Central to be in a frightful condition; Whole track, ties, rail, and all entirely out of sight in the Mud in many places. The train he went in on Thursday last was twenty four hours from Sandoval to St Louis, some 60 Miles; and then no through trains from that one till today. Passengers through only by walking from one train to another across the worst places. This Road is worse than ever before. It is about the worst time ever was. Last Winter was as severe [illegible] perhaps, but it went out very gradually, and the R.R. tracks did not

not feel it much. But now it has gone out with abundant rains; the ground is so soft as to be hardly passable for teams or horses anywhere, and the R.R. tracks are in danger of sinking in it altogether.

In the letter I mailed this morning I told you I had got about through here. I do not mean to remain more than a day or two longer. But I think I shall go to DuBuque, that is, if I find the Rail Road in that direction is like to be in any decent condition.

I expect I ought not to go home without going there.

I will of course keep writing to you almost every day as usual. Perhaps when I come back I may come down here on my way home. If there is any thing I want to hear telegraph to me next Monday or Tuesday say at Julien House Dubuque.

just a few words to let me know you are all well you might send to Telegraph Office and do me good considerable, and cost little. 10 words or less besides the direction and signature is a message, any thing over ten words costs a little more.

Telegraph Office in Griswold's Book Store.

Your Hus Isaac.

27 Feb. 57
DuBuque

Julien House DuBuque Iowa
Friday Night Feb. 27. 1857

My Dear Wife,

I wish I was at home to-night. I do. Still I am very comfortable here. This is a first rate house comfortable in every respect; but it is not home. I wrote to you from Galena this morning while waiting for the train, which due at 7 am a little after did not get along till near noon. However when it did come, it brought us up to Dunleith very carefully & safely. And I immediately crossed over the river here to Dubuque, and took up my quarters at this house, a fine one, named like the City after the old, half French, half Spanish, half Indian Miner who was so distinguished here among the Indians & Borderers years ago. Julien DuBuque, half savage as he was, a "bold, bad man", small in stature but strong in intellect & passion, had great sway in this region for many years; and impressed his influence in years more

Stealing & Gambling, you know have very much gone by ... very ... ; and here has been in years past one of the worst places in the country in every ... respect. But Eastern Emigration, Churches & Schools have done a great work here; and now I suppose Dubuque & Galena are about as respectable places in all respects as towns ... average. R. W. Mason is expected here probably next Monday. I cannot tell how long I shall remain here, some days next week I expect. Do you remember Kingsbury W. H. Kingsbury? He was Bailey, Broad & Co.'s Bookkeeper, Agent &c. in their Iowa Div. track laying. He used to be at DuQuoin some before you left there. He is now Col. Mason's agent and Bookkeeper here. I expected I had a Cousin or two here; but I do not find the name here in the Directories. So perhaps they have died or moved away.

I called to night upon Rev. John C. Holbrook a Pioneer of Congregationalism here in the North West; Pastor of the Cong. Church here. Pioneer as he is he is quite a young man

I called upon him to get, or find if I could, the Congregational Book of Plans for Church building; which I wanted to help the DuQuoin people get up a Plan for their Church. Mr Holbrook told me there was probably but one book of the kind here, his, but he would let me have that, and he would send for another. As he said he could do so without inconvenience, I thanked him especially, and took the book. I liked Mr Holbrook in his study, and Sabbath night will probably write to you how I like him in his pulpit. Rail Roads appear to be quite the subject of conversation here now. And a great project is on foot now for a bridge across the Mississippi River here. It will probably be built, in spite of the quarrelling of St Louis and the whole Steam Boat interest against the Rock Island Bridge, and every other project of the kind. It is acknowledged now that Rail Roads & Railway interests

have rights, even when these interests may conflict with other & older rights. A few years since it was not allowed that any amount of interest or necessity could authorize any sort of inconvenience to the interests concerned in keeping Navigable rivers open.

Well I must study my Book of Plans awhile tonight & soon write I had better [illegible] to our DuQuoin People.

I wish I knew just how well and comfortable you are tonight. Well I hope to get home in a week. [illegible]

All good be with you.

Your own

Isaac

4 March 57

Dubuque

Julien House Dubuque Ia.
Wednesday Noon March 4th

My Dearest

Well I do not suppose that Jas. Buchanan is yet President of the United States of America. Neither am I Chief Engineer of the great Dubuque, St Peters & St Paul Rail Road, but both may be before night. I will not now institute a comparison of probabilities upon the two questions.

R.B. Mason arrived last night in the night I found him at 9 A.M. today busy enough. He told me at once of his meeting with newly organized — well I cannot tell the name of the R.R. Co. but it is one of the lines which receive of the great Iowa Land Grant; the line is from Lyons — miles south of Dubuque across the whole state of Iowa. Mr Mason said he mentioned my name to them, and if I liked that project, would give me letters, to try what could be done there. But thought I would like Dubuque better; and at once gave me a letter about the best one I ever read, ex-

except perhaps one he gave me two years ago to the Directors of Ill. Central R. R. But I am making a long story. this letter was to F. A. Bissell Esq. President of the Dubuque, St. Peters & St. Paul R. R. who are anxious to have their line surveyed and located as soon as possible.
L. D. C. Mason, a cousin of R. B. Mason commenced a survey for them last fall, and this spring none of them can find him. Mr Bissell, whom I found in the U. S. Court and who is a leading Lawyer as well as Capitalist here; was much pleased with Mr R. B. Mason's letter; concluded I was just what they wanted, introduced me to some of their Directors, and proposes to call a meeting this afternoon to see what they will decide to do. The pressing thing with them is to get a new route through the Bluffs out of the City. The Dubuque & Pacific line runs down the Miss. River two or three miles to the mouth of Catfish Creek to go out on. This the Dubuque people do not like, as it looks towards a Bridge across the River below Dubuque which would benefit Galena at Dubuque expense. The City of Dubuque has subscribed 1/4 Millions to the D. St. P. & St. P. R. R. and will

will had 1/2 Million more making 7/4 Million if they can get a ~~line~~ new line directly out of the City. But I am cruel writing this long rigmarole of Statement in which you do not feel interested at all, instead of what you do want to know. — Whether I am coming home how soon, and how long I will stay.

Well, I cannot tell — Probably if I [illegible] [illegible] make arrangement with the D. M. P. & M. R. They will want me to commence as soon as possible. I should go right home in a few days but stay only a week or two. What do you think of that. Oh Dear ~ come to think of it ~ what shall we do. I almost do not want to go to Rail Road-ing any more — I will not be away from [illegible] all the time, or very long. I will not take any place, if I cannot fix things to suit pretty well.

[I] presume though we can find some place to suit us in this great West, [illegible] [illegible] than at Elyria.

If Mother comes over this Spring we will want to stay in Elyria, and I will be home whenever I can. If she does not I should if I do get into this, try to make arrangements to get you out here [illegible]

fore the heat of the Summer,
but it is too soon to make arrange-
ments now.
I shall be home first.
I hoped a Telegram from you yes-
terday - but did not get it.

Your son Isaac

must quit or lose my dinner

2d March 57

DuBuque Julien [illegible] DuBuque Iowa
[illegible]day evening, March 2 '57

P.S. M. did not arrive, I have this day a[illegible] [illegible] Chicago Feb 25 [illegible] but was delayed [illegible]

My Dear Sister

I did [illegible] read you a [illegible] to day. It started quite early, [illegible] to get any breakfast except a bit of dry bread. I walked two miles down to "the Hollow", where the Dubuque and Pacific R.R. crosses the river, and where its temporary buildings are, till the expensive Depot grounds in the Sloughs can be finished. The "Iron Train" Construction, was to go out about seven o'clock; but the Engine got off the Rails on the hard curve of the Iron track, and they did not get started till eleven.
But I improved the time by climbing the Bluffs to "DuBuque's Grave"; the grave of old Julien DuBuque whom I wrote you a few days since. I certainly could not but admire the old fellow's taste in his selection of a burial place. It is a high narrow Bluff, perpendicular or overhanging at the end, projecting into the river between Catfish Creek & "the Hollow"; which Hollow was the great Smelting place for the Lead Ore mined in the Bluffs miles around. This DuBuque's Bluff overlooks completely DuBuque & Dunleith, some three miles up the river and the whole Mighty Mississippi flowing between its magnificent bluff banks a mile or more apart, for many miles North & South. The Tomb was a sort of Artificial cave, excavated in the point of the bluff, and built up of rough masonry which still remains. I had a great Career

ca[illegible] [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] the Stone work [illegible] has all disappeared. The Cedar Cross which stood at the head of the tomb, is nearly gone, and much decayed; [illegible] pretty [illegible] names. [illegible] I was not tempted to add mine. I was tempted enough to sit all day upon that sunny bluff, among the [illegible] trees, to gaze upon the ancient river still moving in its olden course, and the new born Cities springing along its sides. But I crept and slid down the old bluff's steep & snowy Northern side, and climbed upon the Locomotive "Sioux City", which with its load [illegible] soon crawled slowly and windingly [illegible] among the Bluffs and up the crooked little valley of the [illegible] fish Creek, until it finally emerged into [illegible] upon the high broad Prairies of Iowa. In twenty miles the rail road rises 550 feet or more. The track is very rough, laid on a half [illegible] Road bed, in [illegible] ice & snow, in a [illegible] cold winter. [illegible] Train did not get out to the track layers till 3 P.M. and as soon as it could unload started back again. I arrived at the Julien House at 8 P.M. hungry enough, I assure you, for I did not [illegible] much dinner. But [illegible] [illegible] hope [illegible]. [illegible] R. R. should [illegible] to Dubuque [illegible] I shall [illegible] in tomorrow night.

Well its time to go to bed.

Good night [illegible].

July 4th Wednesday

Left Dunleith at 7 P.M. on Steamer Galena

Arrived at Dubuque for more Passengers

Hardly expecting it, I found myself Passage Free

This I suppose is $8.00 Saved. Supper

The River is covered [illegible]

[illegible] We seem to be crossing the river all

the time

A Mile or Two above Dubuque on West Bank is a high

rocky Bluff called Eagle Point

But the darkness compelled us to bed

We stop in the night at Hill's Landing 12 Miles

Wapaloo 20

Buena Vista 26

Cassville 30

Guttenberg 40.

In the Morning are lying still waiting for

the fog

At Breakfast at Clayton City 50 Miles [illegible]

a few houses & Warehouses at the

foot of steep bluffs on Iowa side

Pt. a Lansing, Wisconsin 55 Miles Wood 3.35 per Cord
at Clayton nearly 400 [illegible]
McGregor's Landing Iowa, 62 M. Very few buildings
[illegible] under the bluffs but seems to have
considerable business
The River is beautiful exceedingly with [illegible]
[illegible]
Opposite McGregor's & both above & below there
is a broad [illegible] of bottom land, and the mouth
of Wisconsin River somewhere in it.
Up one of the [illegible] of the River, [illegible] Fort Crawford
and Prairie Du Chien
[illegible] Prairie Du Chien 2 story [illegible]
[illegible] painted, [illegible]
Prairie Du Chien [illegible]
[illegible] large [illegible]
[illegible]
[illegible]
[illegible] enough.
Very little freight here [illegible].
Back of the [illegible] bluffs [illegible] the [illegible]
[illegible] like the bluffs, [illegible]
[illegible] a perpendicular wall [illegible]

that a beautiful slope again, broken partly by another ledge 3/4 way up. above clothing more gradually, apparently prairie, but a few trees or bushes scattered about.

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[illegible] the River [illegible]

banks, Islands between [illegible] & P. du C.

[illegible]

[illegible]

bushes in bundles, large quantities are used to make wharfing, or levee at P. du C.

Bluffs I judge about 200 [illegible]

Frequently castellated — always [illegible] at equal heights

[illegible] P. du C. on Iowa side a pretty little stream, then opening into the bluffs, where the stream [illegible]

Red House 68 Miles Iowa

[illegible] between the bluffs.

Above a sharp point extends down to the River, perhaps 75 ft perpendicular, very narrow. 100 ft. back of that another about as much higher, almost over hanging. Wanted to be on top with a crow bar to throw off a big junk of rock half loosened. How it would come down among those trees.

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[illegible] or "Red House" is exactly under the [illegible] but [illegible] a little garden [illegible] in the [illegible] side.
[illegible] at the [illegible], but the [illegible] going ashore [illegible] with the [illegible] man, [illegible] found it was not the [illegible]

Iowa

[illegible] A little log house & [illegible] shanties, one apparently a store; right under the bluff [illegible] to get up to the [illegible]

[illegible], wooded bluffs [illegible] Iowa [illegible] a [illegible], or mouth of a stream.

[illegible] make no landing [illegible] here [illegible]

[illegible] in [illegible] & [illegible] like the [illegible] but on a smaller scale without the bluffs.

[illegible] Islands, Willow Islands, Oak, Elm Islands.

River valley [illegible] 1 to 3 miles [illegible]

Iowa side wooded rocky bluffs.

Wisconsin [illegible] grassy, scattering [illegible] grassy slopes up 100 ft or more [illegible] perpendicular [illegible] of [illegible] 15. 20. 30 [illegible] more in [illegible], grassy & trees [illegible] [illegible] for a while, these qualities seem to change [illegible] again [illegible] the mouth of a beautiful brook, in Wisconsin [illegible], [illegible] pretty hills, it becomes as before.

These grassy sloping bluffs with the [illegible] wall, are beautiful exceedingly. Oh if I only had another pair of eyes to look with!

Some of the [illegible] walls look as if they must have been built up by the hand of man, enormous [illegible] walls, built up by the giants of long gone ages against the [illegible] of [illegible]. As if [illegible] to rise [illegible] 100 ft or so up in their sides.

How their battlements frown upon us, how they rise like castles over our heads, these must be the [illegible] residences of [illegible] giants.

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And again beautiful sloping grassy hills perhaps crowned with turrets of rock. Holes of every shape & form [illegible] position; as they permit the brooks which wind among them to find their way to the Father of Waters.

[illegible] among the trees, & the [illegible] progress. ——— [illegible]

Wisconsin Bluffs we shoot across among the islands some covered with trees, and some low with grass; then [illegible] of channels among the Islands. Miles away towards the Iowa Bluffs. Oh the exceeding beauty of these quiet green Islands! and the bold bluffs in the distance. Why the Hudson is no more to be compared with this than [illegible] hills with mountains.

Are these beautiful banks & bluffs, now untrodden by man, some time to be built up [illegible] like the Hudson; Why not? Their fullness must lie in "the future" if the [illegible] of humanity makes it.

[illegible] among the numerous islands.

Occasionally great Rafts of timber & lumber [illegible] Reading 12-23

[illegible]

[illegible]
On Iowa side, a brook coming in a deep cove
& high point running down into it. Abrupt
almost overhanging on the outside, river side; on
the inside a steep but grassy slope from the brook
up — top — to the very sharp ridge perhaps 200 ft.
then more [illegible] [illegible]
in the distance across intervening green Islands [illegible]
the grassy hill sides of Wisconsin.
Now on Iowa side a beautiful stream, [illegible]
[illegible] grassy [illegible]
these would make fine sheep pastures.
Lafayette, Iowa . 3 or 4 houses
[illegible], low broad grassy Islands with lagoons of lillies.
Clayton Iowa 98 Miles from Dubuque
Just South of it a bluff [illegible] like the one mentioned
at top of page, extending the other way; Rounded
Columbus, very little Village at mouth of Creek
little bottom Cove extending up. [illegible] steep.
Beautiful Bluffs above
Lansing 100 Miles Iowa Little a Village [illegible] Cove
Rocky bluffs, grassy hills. Beautiful — but I can
not at all describe it

After Leaving La Crosse which we have followed long ... among the Islands again, many miles ... this Wisconsin side again.

Hills - the Hills, what more can I say of them ... grass, ... with trees, and ... trees, ... castled towers or ... Wisconsin, ... as the first of the bluffs. ... "Richmond Bend" ... 

Somewhere here Mouth of Upper Iowa River

Victory Wisconsin 113 Miles few houses, fine ... but I ... of ... them.

Bad Axe Wis. Suppose to be a house or two a mile or so above Victory, A Mile or two further is probably the Mouth of Bad Axe.

Minnesota Line somewhere.

Landing, ... U.S. Land office ...

this Township 13 N. 7 W. ... 12, Bad Axe

Brownsville Minn. 7 P.M.

Little village under a bluff (Small grassy hill rather) U.S. Land Office

Considerable ... 

La Crosse Wisconsin 152 Miles
just at dark, quite a village though little
of it could be seen. Apparently on a high bot-
tom: Much business. High levees made
of Willow Brushing — Leave landing after 9 P.M.

Morning July 6. Friday
Hung up for Fog, and doubtless much in night.
Fog [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] [illegible].

Fountain City or Holmes Landing Wisconsin
195 Miles 8 A. M. A few new houses
in a beautiful recess under the bluffs, gra[illegible]
hills, apparently a fine opening between them
to the back country.
Some of the way the islands are so heavily timbered &
channels between them narrow, that the bluffs are
hardly to be seen.

Mount Vernon Minn. 8. 30
[illegible] [illegible] [illegible]

Trempealeau Wisconsin probably 223 Mi.
A few houses [illegible] under a magnificent [illegible].
[illegible] above [illegible] [illegible] a [illegible] handkerchief [illegible]
Beautiful Prairie on the top & in Bottom.

Massasoit House Springfield
Tuesday P.M. Sept. 21
1858

My Dearest

Must drop you a line tonight that you may know of our progress. First very warm weather; Perhaps though you have already noticed that item. Staid at Cleveland till 3.50 P.M. Anna Moody's Cousin or uncle, a good natured & apparently well to do Irishman; named Quinn was at the Depot waiting for her, & very heartily carried her & Hattie up Town to his house; so I saw no more of them till 3.45 I dined heartily & viewed the City as the weather would. 3.50 P.M. Cars, & no stop over 15 min till we reached here at 2 o'clock this P.M. Hattie in pretty good spirits throughout; but did not sleep much. Anna M. did heartily, though a good deal sick when awake. Hattie was sick some this Morning when travelling rather fast; Pretty thoroughly tired out & used up when we reached here: besides very dusty & cindery. She wanted to stop here, so I got her a good room at the Massasoit, & she will be finely rested before tomorrow morning I presume.

I may get to Boston tomorrow night; but doubtful will keep you advised occasionally.

I feel first rate myself. Travelling agrees with me you know—

I should like much to know just how you & the little ones get on

Love & kisses

Isaac

Isaac Springfield Mass
Sept. 21 1858

Isaac Springfield Mass
Sept 21 1858

Augusta Maine
Isaac Sept 24 '58
Elyria

Augusta Maine, Friday Sept. 24

Dear Nattie

Well I have not got to Bangor yet. I wrote you from Springfield — Tuesday I think it was Wednesday, went up to S. Hadley, I remained there from 9 or 10 A.M. till 3 P.M. Left Hattie in much better spirits than I expected. I think she liked at first better than she expected. — I was much pleased with Miss Tolman, the Receiving Teacher, Miss Jessup was not about, Miss Chapin sick. Miss Tolman told me she had relatives named De Witt, ~~She should think of her on that~~ account, and would take good care of her; seemed specially interested in her. She gave her to a Miss Reeder of Binghampton N.Y. as a Room Mate, whom she described as "a most lovely girl; one of our best scholars". One of the most desirable rooms in the house, second story, same floor as Recitation rooms, front room &c. Hattie was very much pleased with Miss Reeder, could not help loving her at once she said. Miss Tolman assigns Rooms & Room Mates for first four weeks, then those who desire can change.

Hattie will like South Hadley I am pretty confident

Left Holyoke at 5 P.M. Wednesday
Reached Springfield at 6 "
Left " " " "
Reached Boston " 1 A.M.
Slept four or five hours and yesterday
came down here. Maine State Fair being
in operation concluded to stop over
for 24 hours. Great equestrian Per-
formance of Ladies yesterday P.M.
Great attraction & very great crowd
Great ridiculous [illegible]
Fine cattle show
an exhibition of produce, manufactured
articles &c. in the Rooms of the State House.
Last evening Speech from Jefferson Davis
the distinguished Southern Senator.
Plan to stay here all day, reach
Bangor at 7 P.M.
First rate in health & spirits
Wish I could hear of your being
same with the dear little ones

Lovingly
Dick

[illegible] Augusta Me
Sept. 24, 1858 Thur

Isaac Toledo Ohio Feb 1 1859

Island House Toledo, Ohio
Tuesday Eve. February 1st 1859

Dearest Nettie

I have to wait here this evening, and believe I can do no better than to write a bit to you. It seems already a long time since I left you & the little ones.
I called at Dr Dascomb's'. They are all well, and said they wanted to see you. The Doctor went over to the Cars with me; and introduced me to a young Mr Cowles, a son of Prof Cowles of Oberlin, a Theological student, a tall fine looking young fellow, going out to Bellevue where he is preaching this winter. He was very good company. On the Cars also was Rev Jas. Eells of Cleveland, going out to Fremont to preach this evening - unusual religious interest there at present. Had considerable conversation with him about Elyria &c.
The Toledo Wabash & Western Train does not leave here until about 1 o'clock, so I have quite a waiting before me.
I guess Rollin will take care of things pretty well - if not reprove him. I have instructed him about the Furnace &c. If there should come extreme cold weather so as to require unusual fires, you might look down cellar occasionally and about the pipes &c. to see that all is right. If any thing goes wrong any where in any thing that Rollin can not fix satisfactorily call upon Mr Waldo or the Doctor, or

or Mr Crane about the furnace.
The $5.00 I left on the bureau for Mr
Darling I gave to him myself.
If you want Crushed Sugar Send Rollin
to get a bucket full — He need say
nothing about the 100 lbs. You can
call & pay for it yourself if you want
to — or not —
I want to know how you get along
tonight. Please write very often.
This Pen is so extra mean I can hardly
write. but I am too lazy to unpack my
Valise to get my own.

Truly Isaac

Springfield Ill. Feb. 3rd 1859

Isaac
Springfield Ill
Feb. 3rd 1859

My Dearest

I wrote you from Toledo a bit of a note the evening after I left home. That evening I spent till 10 P.M. in the very well appointed Reading Room of the Young Men's Association of Toledo, then in the Island House Reading Room till about 1 o'clock A.M. when I left on the Western bound Train, arrived at the Illinois State Line at 1 P.M. and here at 7-15 P.M. Went with Mitchell to his hired house, Mitchell's wife and his wife's Sister who is with her this Winter, seemed quite interested to hear from you; and promised to call upon you. They know all about Dunbarton people; The Mrs, (both Mrs Stinson's), Capt. & Wm. Stinson wifes are Cousins Her name was Betsy Parker, You probably remember her & her sister Abby Parker; she said her brother Louis used to go to school ~~with~~ to you there at Parker's I suppose. They live very snugly, renting a small house not far from the Depot & R. Rd. Offices. The Ladies do not like Springfield as well as Nobanna, where you know that

Mitchell had built a pretty good house, and lived pretty comfortably.
I rather think Mitchell will stay here. It is uncertain however, about that
This forenoon I have been up to the State House, and found there John Condit Smith, as natural as ever, and still larger; he is really growing corpulent, his cheeks stick out considerable - really quite fat; it rather improves his appearance I think.
Says he shall take occasion to call at Elysia. He is a man of Magnificent Schemes truly. His Magnificent Land Schemes of Two Years since have left him very much in the lurch, as indeed have many others in the same time. As he says he has been pretty well 'busted up', but he has still great things ahead; Certain Swamp Land plans which he has in tow, he has been at Washington, and is now closely following the Illinois Legislature; one of the most active Lobby Members - and expects his Commission will ammount to the trifling sum of Sixty Thousand dollars ($60.000.00) Perhaps!!
I shall stay here all day to day. ~~Tomorrow~~, To night 9.15 P.M. go over to Decatur - sleep there, and the ~~tomorrow~~ Friday go down to Du Quoin.

How long I shall want to stay at DuQuoin of course I know no more than I did when I left home. One thing I shall intend to get home as soon as I fairly can. Though doubtless I ought in regard to my own interest to stay but here and look after my matters here more than I have of late. I have most too large a stake in Illinois to leave the State entirely for two years at a time. My Pecuniary interest would have dictated that I should reside at DuQuoin.

Well I shall hope to hear from you, when, or soon after I reach DuQuoin.

Love & Kisses

Yours

Ldd C

Isaac Du Quoin Ill
Feb 13 1859

Southern Illinois Seminary
Du Quoin Ill. Feb. 15th 1859

My Dear Sister,

Excuse this kind of paper it is what is left in my [illegible] from the [illegible] of the past [illegible] week, and I [illegible] care to go over to the office for more. [illegible] loving and [illegible] of the office I have the past week with drawn books, papers [illegible] & piano from the office to this my quiet chamber in Mr Keyes' house, and [illegible] have worked away day & evening [illegible] with [illegible] engaged.

Thus Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday, Friday, hardly going out at all from the house. Saturday I took Mr Keyes' horse & buggy and went down to the Old Town. The old place — our first home — looks rather hard. The store part you know moved away, and all left in dreadfully un-fixed condition. The Man Turner, to whom Mr Keyes sold it, has never any thing but mischief there, has never paid any thing for it or towards it, and now it has finally come back into Mr Keyes' hands again. I hope he will fix it up or sell it to some one who will. It is too bad. It is really the handsomest grounds, yard & shrubbery there is in all Southern Illinois. There so many and so various evergreens are splendid. Keyes would give $25.00 apiece for them now at the new place, I do not know but a hundred. From there or from the Seminary the new City of Du Quoin shows admirably. It is spread over a [illegible]

deal of ground, & looks finely from a distance [illegible] the [illegible] and [illegible] 'flats' has all been cut down.

Geo. [illegible] Hinkley, you know, has now his store right opposite his house, is quite a thriving man, has made money within a few years. I stopped at his house to dinner. Mrs H. is much given to cooking as ever, and growing fat as a pig. (Brights) live in a little new house just East of Hinkley's store. I did not see Mrs Brights; she was gone away somewhere when I called.

Hiram Hinckley has sold his house & sundry acres of land with it to [illegible] new house you know or built since time you was here in front of the old log house; and he has built a new larger & better house, very good & convenient, though not quite yet finished — down the road — 1/4 mile — nearly near the middle of his farm. All the folks glad to see me and delighted to hear from Aunt Hattie who you know is exceedingly idolized by the people of the vicinity, however they may think of her husband. [illegible] they loved good woman, and I remember so much. [illegible] [illegible] painfully [illegible] [illegible] sweet girl though, and the little Margaret, whom you remember is most as big as anybody. In the [illegible] Mc[illegible] and [illegible] Allen Blair & [illegible] and [illegible] eyes all sparkled to hear from you.

I went all over the Seminary building with Milford H. It is really a quite a fine building; but under the [illegible] [illegible]

much more than it ought.

To contract to furnish such buildings at $12,000.00 each [illegible] at $10,000.00, and they say that has cost at least $16,000.00, and they have spent someway a [illegible] one or two thousand.

I saw Mrs Saunders who is now nominally the head of the School. [illegible] had in [illegible] 16 or 17 [illegible]! [illegible] they have had.

[illegible] by three or four years ago. It appears that their conduct caused some scandal among the [illegible] but the old folks thought nothing of it. [illegible] whether she paid his expenses I do not know.

He came back, and the community were thunderstruck by the announcement that they were to be married the next day! All were invited to the wedding, but nobody went. He had positively nothing to live on; his friends all poor as rats. His wife took him right into the Seminary to room with her there! And there they laid abed half the forenoon to the great scandal of the young ladies! And there they continued in spite of all could be done. The Board of Trustees, after all she had done or tried to do for the Institution did not like to discharge her. She refused to resign, & [illegible], [illegible] uphold her, and compelled the [illegible] [illegible]. Moreover Weeks took airs & authorities upon himself, as head, or husband of the head, of the School, attended in the committee room; wanted to be Secretary &c. &c.

At last I suppose the Case, my friend the [illegible], who had become a member of the board, had to take upon himself the natural authority of his nature, and command a peace.

Mr & Mrs Weeks [illegible], he studies law, and she writes upon the subject of her sacrifices & persecutions.

The people at the Old Town are very sore upon the subject; they think [illegible] robbed the Seminary most egregiously. [illegible] &c. &c. which they thought had been donated to the Seminary, she claimed

[illegible] and [illegible] of [illegible], and [illegible]
[illegible] Seminary [illegible]
[illegible]
[illegible] [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] [illegible]
[illegible] [illegible]
[illegible] Rogers [illegible] Seminary. [illegible]
[illegible] Rogers [illegible] saying the [illegible]. Rogers
[illegible] *eighty* [illegible]
[illegible]
Rogers [illegible] a petite [illegible]
[illegible] furniture! He pocketed it as best he might
and said nothing. [illegible]
[illegible] furniture [illegible]
[illegible] Seminary! He [illegible]
[illegible] Seminary,
[illegible] !
[illegible] Harvard [illegible]
[illegible]
[illegible] 4 or 5 [illegible] the Cambridge
[illegible]
'Disciples', [illegible]
[illegible]
[illegible] Rogers [illegible]
[illegible]
[illegible]
[illegible] 1000 [illegible]
[illegible]
[illegible] 1. [illegible]
[illegible] 33 [illegible]
[illegible] 18 [illegible]
[illegible]
[illegible] 4 [illegible]
[illegible]
[illegible] This is [illegible]

Milo, Piscataquis Co. Maine
Thursday Aug. 25th 1859

Milo
Aug. 25
1859

My Dearest

I am afraid you may think I have not been very good about writing letters since I left home. I wrote once from Lewiston N.Y. and most especially intended to write again from Montreal, but failed. I did write from Bangor on Sunday. to go by first mail after we arrived there. Monday I with great joy received a letter from you. the first you wrote. and yesterday morning, just as I was getting into the Stage to come up here, another, written the Friday before; and enclosing the one from Mr. Keyes. So I feel tolerably easy about you, knowing that you began to get along tolerably comfortably. Another thing relieved me a good deal, to hear of the tank filling up, & not leaking. I have been quite anxious about that. If it had leaked badly, it would have been quite a trouble to you, especially if coming in the night.
I wrote to you Sabbath day.
Monday & Tuesday, staid at Bangor partly

with Elial, in his Counting Room, and about his business, and looking at the vessells, and partly with the Children. Some one had to stay pretty close by them all the time. Irving is so quick, and nervous, & mischiefous, that Corse to get Wilder with them they needed most constant watching. Here they appear to do very much better together.
Tuesday, I wrote & Mailed a long letter (7 or 8 Pages of Note size) to Dunbarton, telling of our journey, and making enquiries about the Wedding &c. So as to know when I shall decide to go there.
We came up here yesterday, Wednesday, by Stage - terribly dusty - It is a very dry time here, about the most so I ever saw. Found Charles cutting grain, and went to work helping get in some of it. So I pitched on three loads of oats before dark. And before morning it began to rain, a very nice gentle rain to do a great deal of good.
Hattie De Witt is up to Brownville Mother here.
Mother & Anna & Albina have got to work already this morning fitting up Charlie &c. And Anna is talking some of taking Mary with her.

The Children here are all about as of old. The Baby "George" 7 mos. old is a great fat stout boy sitting on the floor at play.
The little one at Bangor "Edith Ellis" is the most physically of any of their Children, weight 14 lbs at 3 mos. three lbs more than our baby, and the extreme of good nature &c. Showing still stronger by contrast with the other nervous & slender little ones.
It is perhaps hardly decided yet whether Hattie will go home with us or not.
Well, I believe I shall have to stop as Charles is just going down to P.O.
You must call upon Mr Waldo for every thing that is needed — and write me particularly.
Kiss the Babies for me.
And receive for yourself all manner of love
Your Own, Isaac S.

Milo. Maine. Aug. 28th 1859
Sunday Afternoon

Rec'd the Aug 28 '59 / Bowe

My Dear Ellie

Wilder & I came up here Monday, on Wednesday. Thursday I wrote a letter to you, but did not quite get it to the Post Office in season. So that I suppose it did not go to Bangor until Saturday, as there is now a Mail but three times a week. And you will think I have been rather negligent about writing. I expect there is a letter from me at Bangor from you, and perhaps another from Dunbarton. Thursday it rained all day, a great rain storm; the first for a long while; it had been a very dry time. Friday, Anna & I went up to Brownville with Charlie' horse & Chaise, stopping a while by the way under Brownville Bridge, in violent Shower. James, Lizzy, Hattie, Mills Ryder & Frank Searles, a Cousin of James visiting there from Sutton Mass. had gone on an Excursion to Katahdin Iron Works where they had a fine time, Climbing the Iron Mountains, sailing the Lake, and getting slightly wet by the Shower in a leaky shanty in the woods. Yesterday, Saturday, was too rainy to go on the Lake, or the hill; and we were a house full at Almeda's but just at night, after a heavy shower, Wilder and myself came down here, by Eight o'clock. Wilder sleeping most of the way. Wilder is a very good boy, very little trouble in any way — was some, at least needed watching some at Bangor with Irving; but here or at Brownville none at all hardly, except that he will talk rather too much. His health is first rate, like mine, eats any thing, and every thing, and a great deal of it; nothing hurts him in any way, and he grows fat. The change of Climate suits him. Anna & Hattie will come down here, probably tomorrow. and Almeda too tomorrow or the next day. to see Mother &c.

We shall go to Bangor, perhaps all together with Charles' horses & big Carriage, perhaps by stage on Thursday or Friday.

Wilder & I shall probably go to Dunbarton on Friday or Saturday. (Arrangements not fully made, for I have not yet heard from Dunbarton.) But probably I & Wilder shall go first to Dunbarton, stay over Sabbath. Mother & Anna go to Boston on Monday, stay in Boston perhaps a day or two, and I meet them there perhaps on Wednesday of Next week, and go on West.

These arrangements however, are as yet only problematical.

But I think we will get home by the end of ~~next~~ next week.

I suppose there are Water & Musk Melons both in the Garden, which ought to be eaten. Do you find them, or dare to eat them? One thing I intended to mention to Mr Waldo, but forgot, and it is now too late. I had some Early peas of which I planted ~~the~~ the ripened seed the first of July, and they were nearly ripe the second time when I came away. I intended to ask Mr Waldo to plant a few of them, ~~as~~ soon as ripe enough, and try to raise the third Crop.

But you should have green peas to eat nowadays. And you may enjoy them all the better, as you can rely upon them as containing, not any even incipient bugs.

I am almost homesick today for lack of a letter from you.

I got one last night for Anna, but she will not be home to read it until tomorrow.

I will get a letter or two by tomorrow's mail I think.

They talk some of having [illegible] go back with me to live with Anna, go to school and so forth. What do you think of it?

I should like to know whether you have been to Church today, and how tired you are; and how the children behave, and a good many other things about you. And I should like to kiss my Ollie.

Sincerely,

Isaac.

Elyria
July 18 1860

Elyria July 18 '60
Wednesday Evening
Day of the Eclipse

Dearest
I have just written to George, two or three pages. as you requested.
I would give considerable to know just how you are at this present time. 9.30 P.M. Fairly started on your long tiresome night ride from Buffalo to Albany. Yes I suppose you must have left Buffalo before Six o'clock.
I am afraid you are very tired, and your head aches before this time

Quite a mess of black berries for supper

Even more than it has all day; and that you will not get much chance to rest tonight.
I shall be quite anxious till I can hear from you.
I shall wonder if you get home tomorrow; Thursday Evening. If you go right on without detention, you would get to Worcester by noon probably; and could get round to Manchester or Concord early in the afternoon.
I am afraid you will get home sick.
Do be careful of yourself. Take your time to rest & recruit yourself.
Visiting alone, is the very time to do that.

I found rather a lonesome house here when I got home from the Depot.
However the Children have all been very good, and all appear very well.
Charlie says "I do not want my Mama not to come home"
Wilder says "I wanted to go with my Mama".
We had a very fine Shower here this After noon; and both the boys were very anxious for fear you would get wet.
I hope the Shower was Extensive Enough to Lay the dust where you ride tonight and Tomorrow.
You must not worry about the Children, or any thing Else; so as

Enjoy your visit nicely
All will go on just as
well as need be.
The Children do, and will
do first rate.
Sarah is good as you could
ask; Even Zillah seems
to feel her weight of responsi
bility, and to try specially
to be careful in all things.
Enjoy your visit & not hurry
home, on our account.
I do not know as you can
read this. I did not know
the pen was so bad till I
look back upon it.
Of course you will write as soon
as you get home, or before if
you stop. And write
very frequently
Your Own Isaac

Elyria
July 22^d 1860

Elyria
Sabbath Eve. July 22^d 1860

Dearest Nettie

I considerably expected a letter from you last night, but it did not come. From this I judge that you did not stop at Westboro, & not writing till you got home, even if you got home Thursday night, we would not get a letter before Monday night.

You want to know for the first thing how we all are here.

Generally: Very well.

Particularly: Baby, about as usual; Her bowels were a little out of order when you left, and a day or two before; and have been slightly so since; but are better today, better I think than for a week or two. She is very good, amuses herself on the floor and with playthings &c. by the hour. She is very little trouble nights, sleeps in the bed altogether; has not dirtied

a diaper in the night since you went away. She takes to her father greatly since your absence; makes for me with shouting whenever I come in her sight.
Charlie & Wilder are evidently better than they have been: seem to be getting entirely over their Cough; and have great appetites; better than any time since they began to cough.
(I have been afraid they would hurt) themselves with fruit; but I try to have them eat only the ripe, and that does them good. Some of the early apples are getting quite ripe now you know.
The rest of us are well as usual.
Mother, I was a little afraid would try to do too much, and tire herself out, but she seems to do finely.
The girls do very well, better than you would expect. Sarah takes fine care of the baby, and seems very reliable about it.

I incline to think Sarah is rather unusually careful, reliable, and trustworthy for a girl of her age. She is certainly smart & capable.
Zillah does better than usual. I imagine she takes extra pains to be careful about every thing. Mother looks after her some, and every thing seems to go on very well.
Charles is entirely devoted to the New Barn, which progressed some.
Anna, wonderful to relate, was up here Friday to spend the day! She came in the forenoon, staid to dinner & all the afternoon, and the Dr came up to tea; and then they were detained by a shower till about dark. And I guess the children down there all lived through it.
Thursday Morning I went over to Oberlin, to see that Miss Helen Martin of Mrs Dascombs' about our

our schools; but found she had engaged to stay in the Oberlin Public School. I carried them Mrs Calkins & Matilda Waldo, who is to stay there till after Commencement; and Mr Waldo worked for me mean while.

My cough continues, but perhaps is hardly as bad as before you left. It makes a good excuse for me not to go to Church this evening though. Mother & Charles have gone.

It has been a rainy day; rained all the morning till after Meeting time, and several showers since. It has rained every day since you went away more or less, beginning with a short shower at 2 P.M. Wednesday; a heavy shower Wednesday night moderate one Thursday P.M. another Friday, a heavy one yesterday P.M. and rained more or less every night. Meeting was very thin this morning. Mr Wilbur preached

an excellent sermon from "Behold the Lamb of God, which taketh away the sin of the world". It was not Christ as a Teacher; it was not the innocence of Christ; but Christ as a Lamb - that is as a sacrifice for sin, which takes away sin.

Went to Four Plank S. S. this P.M. as usual, and found school nearly as large as usual.

There was a boy drowned near here last night, just by Mr Snow's about sunset, Willie Lawndon a Ridgeville, Sugar Ridge Boy, nephew of Mr Thomas Lawndon, and living there to do chores & go to school. About 14 years old.

The Body was not recovered for an hour or more. Charles & I went down & both went in to try to find him, but did not succeed. There happened to be no boat any where near, and nothing to be done except by swimming & diving till

5 it was too late. I believe though it as half an hour at least, after boats did get there, and Charles & I left before the body was recovered. My breath was so short, that I could not stay under water long enough to amount to any thing hardly. Mother thought Charlie & I would both catch cold &c. but I guess we did not; I rather strained my short breath, but have got about over it I guess.

There came, the day after you left a letter from Susie Brigham which I will save till you get back I guess there is nothing special in it for which to send it to you.

I wrote to George & mailed Thursday Morning, and also a letter to you which I presume you have got ere this.

I am quite anxious to hear from you. I expect you got very tired indeed before you got to New K.

Perhaps were made sick almost or quite. I am anxious to hear.
Take time, and rest yourself; and be careful of yourself. And do write often, & particularly.

Do not think you must hurry back. Take time to make your visit, and recruit yourself by absence from the toilsome cares of your family.
Write to us frequently, and we shall get along. And, by straining a point or two, you can get along yourself, if you hear from us regularly.
If you should go down to Bangor, I wish you would, if you can contrive to bring it, have Eliab give you some of that Course Duck, you know what, for Minos pants. You know we cannot get it here.
I can get nothing to suit me as well.

Well — Write — of course —
Good Night & God's Blessing,
Sincerely,
Isaac

Elyria July 27 1860

Elyria July 27. 1860

Nettie Dearest

Your good letter of the 21st-23d came tonight. The other one mailed the 21st came on Wednesday, having been urgently expected. for two or three days.

I wrote to you on Wednesday night after you started, the receipt of which you acknowledged, and again on Sabbath night which you had not received at that time, but perhaps have ere this.

There is little new to write you tonight. We all get along nicely and about after our usual sort. Charles & I are quite busy about the Barn. Two half days this week we have been up to the Woods, where Darling has been hauling Saw logs. Other days I have been part of the time at

Brooks Planing Mill, where I have been getting lumber prepared for the barn. Yesterday I helped Mr Waldo get in some hay from over the River, and today he has been working on the barn. He stacked his hay by the side of my old barn, so that he can keep his old horse in my old barn this winter, if I do not move it.

Wednesday the Crandall girls had a Pic Nic Dinner at the Junction, north of Town. Crandalls, Jenkins Wilburs. P. Phelps, DeWitts & about 20 F. L. Nelson & J. S. Metcalf especially invited, "on account of their present widowed condition" I did not train in that company excusing myself on account of pressing business. Today carried Mother to Dr S, and with Anna to call at Mrs Wilburs. Charlie & Little May sitting in the carriage, or driving round the streets with Wilbur boys & Rolly De

with mean while. Wilder went down to Drs to stay all night. The Children all are very well I think now. Baby sleeps better nights nowadays I think than she has for a long time. Last Night waked me only once and night before only twice. Wilder & Charlie may be considered very good little boys.

What shall we do with fruit? Zillah & Charlie picked nearly a half bushel of splendid great nice Goozeberries. I talked of Making them into Wine, but they did get into a big pudding dish of Jelly & more too. Blackberries - words fail to express. Charlie picks a few quarts per day of Wild ones in the Grove, which we eat in pies & puddings, but the Lawtons: Well their name is legion, all fair & smooth, and about an inch in diameter the smallest way, if there be any smallest way to them.

I suppose they would be worth two shillings a quart in Eastern Cities.

Hope your Father & Mother are better ere this.

What shall you do for your own health? Avoid tiring yourself. Do not sit down in the house & sew all the time; be out of doors much. Keep warm. ~~Be~~ careful of your Bowels.

You will feel better in a few days I guess, when you get fully over your fatigue of journey.

Write to me frequently.

Much love to the good folks.

Sincerely

Isaac. Lea

Elyria July 29 1860

Elyria. Ohio July 29 1860
Sabbath Evening

~~Nettie~~ Dearest

~~Mother~~ & Charles have not not got home from Meeting: I did not go this evening. I will write a bit to to you I think. I wish I could know & see just how you do & feel this evening. I hope having got fairly rested from your journey you feel much better. Do not stay in the house & especially sew too much. Be out of doors. If your father is well enough, and it is good for him to be out, ride about over the hills with him. It will do you more good than any thing else. If not, be sure to walk out every day & every where, often & much; not much at a time, or to get tired, but frequently. Be careful and not get fatigued. After George gets home

he will ride with you. Keep the horse a going. It will be good for both of you. Only look out that you do not get fatigued over those rough roads. What you want is the greatest amount of Out door exercise you can have with out fatigue. I suppose it is just the time you cannot get much fruit there, which is a little un fortunate. Here we abound. I be lieve I wrote you about the Black berries. Apples are considerable Eight or ten trees of sweet Apples small trees, but some Apples to each are ripening. The Harvest Ap ples are about gone. The Astrachans for sauce & pies hold out yet.
Some Pears are beginning to ripen. Peaches are hardly ready yet.

We get along finely here. I think the three Children are in better health than they have been for Months. Wilder & Charlie are about done coughing. and

Eat like young horses or pigs. They "Eat all that is set before them" at the table; and fruit as they can get it. Charlie's usual salutation to me is "Papa, Gim napple"! Baby too seems very well; Bowels in good condition, eats well, sleeps well & is good natured.

We have had frequent showers since you left. It rained part of last night & till 10 this morning when it cleared off so pleasantly that those who went to Church did not think of Umbrellas! But before 12 o clock it was raining again smartly! By 2 P.M. It cleared off again beautifully, so we went to our Down Plank S.S. and had a good school; but before we got through, it was closely clouded again, though it has not rained much yet.

Tuesday 31st
This letter not gone yet.
All doing well. Baby a little
diarrhea from swallowing a green
blackberry whole, which she picked
up on the floor. She is getting
over it though; and it was not
as bad as ~~when~~ before you went away
which was occasioned by swallow
ing a gooseberry.
The Wilbur Boys here about
all day today, having a fine
time, the four & Charlie & Mary
Rich & Gurney Hussey.
Cassius M. Clay is to speak
here Friday Afternoon.
Write often.
Much love to you & all
Isaac

Elyria
Aug. 3 1860

Elyria, Aug 3^d 1860

My Dearest

Your letter of the 28th Ultimo came to hand last night, & was very gladly received You speak of coming home in two weeks or so. You have no occasion to hurry home on account of the children. We all get along finely. have so far. & expect to continue to do so. You had better stay your visit out, and get yourself well recruited. Be careful of yourself. and do not get over fatigued. The more you ride about the better for you if you do not get over tired. I suspect you did one day that you wrote about

When did I write you last?
Letter Mailed Tuesday last
perhaps. Since then I have
been pretty busy; seeing every
body to collect Pew Rents &c.
Wednesday paid Mr Wilbur
$140.00 Yesterday $40.00
and perhaps more today.
This Morning it rains nice
ly, which is very much re-
gretted. Cassius M. Clay
was to speak here, according
to arrangement, in Court
House Square, at 1 P.M.
today; and a great crowd
was expected.
What the result will be, with
this rain, I do not know.
Monthly Church was ap
pointed for this Afternoon.
but it was decided last
night to give it up, on
account of the expected

crowd. If the weather were good, the streets would be so filled that Ladies, could not get to the meeting. and the men would all want to hear the Speech.

I guess now both will fail.

We got letters from Brownville last night. They enquire urgently, when you & I will be there visiting.

Have not heard from Bangor since you left.

How much Money have you got left?

How much shall I send you to come home with?

I ought to have had it for you to take with you when you started from home.

We have not got our Barn fully covered yet.

Wilder has been down to Dr S. most of this week. where they say he is an excellent boy. His Eyes shine & he dances finely whenever he happens to see me in there or in the Street but he sticks to he is not coming home till Saturday night. Charlie complains a good deal of the want of "Big Wilder."
He is a very good boy.
His principal want has changed from "Napple" to "A apple".

Please write often.

Your Son

Isaac

Elyria
Aug. 5 1860

Elyria. Aug. 5 1860
Sabbath Evening

Dearest,

I believe I must write you a little ~~this~~ evening.
It has been a very pleasant day indeed, quite warm and yet with a fine bracing air.
Mr Wilbur preached an excellent sermon this morning from Ps. 119. 11
P. M. was the S. S. Concert at the Episcopal Church, Union Concert, Address by Rev Dr Wheeler Presdt of the ~~Methodist~~ College at Berea.
I did not attend, being obliged to go to my S. S. down the Plank you know. This Evening I have stayed at home to see to the children
Mother has not been at all all day. this morning not feeling

hardly well enough; tired with the weeks cares, Tonight she was going, & the horse stood at the gate, but Charles had gone down to the Drs. & did not get back in time to go with her.
So the Girls both went to Methodist Church, where Dr. Wheeler preached, as he did in Morning.
~~Tuesday~~ Friday, I wrote you of Cap M. Clay's being here. The Morning was extremely unpropitious, very rainy till one o'clock. It did first rain at Eleven. & I went out on horseback on the Oberlin Road to meet Clay, quite a troop of us. It began to rain again & we got nicely wet. Clay has been speaking in Open Air about every day for five weeks and was about broken down, so he did not do Credit to himself.

When he began, in Court House Square
he could hardly be heard by those
next to him, he was so hoarse,
but after a little his voice began to
come till there was no need of going
to hear him. He could be heard all
over town; at least any where a
bout the Square. After him Hon
H. G. Blake, M. C. for this district,
(Judge Bliss' successor) spoke a little
and then John C. Underwood of
Virginia, who is really a fine speaker.
In spite of the ~~first~~ rainy morning there
was a great crowd.
Our New S. S. Library
was on hand, or partly so, this
morning for the first time.
The Ladies Society amused us
some. After donating money to
the S. S. to get a new Library, with
you know they appointed a Committee
to get the Library! Not contend

with that, (under the lead of Mrs Hall; who I suppose wanted Artemas' S.S. over the River should inherit,) since you went away they appointed another Committee to dispose of the Old Library! This was a little too much. In fact on reflection, most of them saw their ridiculousness in taking the matter away from those to whom it belonged so completely, & felt a good deal ashamed of it.
So when the Matter came up in S.S. today, Mr Brooks suggested they should appoint a committee not interested in any of the Mission Schools who might want the Books, and so they quickly nominated a Com. of the Opp: Mrs Cole & Mrs Darling.

Letter from Eliab last night. Mallie Metcalf just chartered for Palermo, Sicily, with new Capt. Capt. Snow very sick.

P.S. We are all well.
Baby had some diarhea last week and fretted some: but is much better. Boys & rest very well.
Aff. Isaac

Elyria
Aug. 8 1860

Aug. 8 1860
Elyria

Dearest Nettie

I got your letter the same time mine was mailed, the last I wrote to you, Monday Night. Very glad to hear more that. Good news.

We have no worse here I think. Baby still has some diarrhea, but seems full as well as she has for a month or two.

Do not worry about my cough. It is about all gone, I do not cough at all in the day time, and very rarely in the night. I do not cough I think more than the boys do, & seem entirely well. There

are always some slight
remnants of the Whoops
for some time I suppose.
Blackberries: Mother &
Lillah canned some, 3 or 4
tin cans I guess; ~~M~~ Charlie
has carried down town &
sold $1.50 worth of them.
some sent to Drs & some
to Mr Milburn.
Mother is afraid you will
drive around, visiting &c.
make yourself tired out
and your health worse
than when you went away.
I tell her the riding about
will be good for her, if you
do not get too tired. You
must be careful of your
self.

I will enclose in this
$10.00 for you, and if
I can get it five more

You have not written how
much you had left of the
money you started with
I do not even know any
thing how much your fares
cost you in getting there.

I would send XX to day if
I had it now. If you write
this week of wanting more
I will send more. I could
send to you at Meltown I
suppose.
Perhaps, if you are short
and not time to write
you can borrow of George
& I will repay it when
you get here.

In the last letter I received was a long one from Anna, which informed you of all the Effie news better than I could.

Much love to all.

I think you will get this letter Saturday. If you do not, I think there is no danger of your coming Washington so soon as you spoke of.

Affly, Isaac

This is the [illegible] after your [illegible]. It is no matter however, neither being of any moment. I wish you had, or could see some of our apples. The Porter Boughs I think are the finest I ever saw, so perfectly smooth & perfect, and many of them almost twelve inches in circumference. They are most gone now. Golden Sweets begin to ripen soon.

Elyria
Aug 13 / 1860

Elyria Aug. 13 '60

My Dear One

Have just this evening received your letter, of the 9th inst. which promised to be mailed at Concord; but was post marked Dunbarton. You had not then, but have doubtless ere this received my letter of the 8th enclosing X $. With this I will enclose a similar amount, Bill of our S. W. Baldwin's Home Bank of West Meriden Conn. Will that make enough? Fare from Worcester to me $16. dollars or so.

Thermometer 91° F. on Dumbarton hills Pretty well that. Last Monday it was 98° F. here and Tuesday 96° ".

We are getting along finely here.
Baby is better within a few days than she has been Stoppage of her diarrhea ascribed to Mother's black berry root tea.
The Boys very hearty and continually stuffing themselves with apples.
Charlie eats little else.
You must excuse this scrawling letter. It is late, and I am sleepy. Got home from Mission meeting by 10 oclock, but had must to write to Eliab first.

I was amused coming in the room today — rainy day — to see a consultation between the three children; Charlie & Wilder talking very earnestly about their play as they sat on the floor, and May, who had scampered to them, standing on two hands & one foot, with the other foot swinging up in the air; not a very dignified posture, but she looked as solemn as a queen rendering a judgment.

We have had a fine rain since Sabbath P. M.

Do not trouble yourself about these things. All shopping can be done here as well or better as there — to say nothing of the fact that you or Anna either have little spare money there; while your credit at least is A. I. here.

I believe however I did promise to write you about getting a "nice fan" for Anna One costing $1.50 I believe — probably such as you could get at Wolcotts for $1.25 — "dark colors"

Cincinnati
Sept 5 1860

Cincinnati Ohio
Sept 5 1860

My Dearest

I arrived here very comfortably at 4 o'clock this morning, shall stay here most of the day. And then going down the river, shall not get to DuQuoin probably till Saturday night. So you may not hear from me after this reaches you for some days, or a week or so.

I should like to know this morning how you got along with the baby last night; and

how all things pass off
this morning.
I hope you will get a
girl at once. I am
afraid you will tire
yourself all out.
Charlie will be a
good boy, & do every
thing he can for you
when out of School.
Do not hesitate to call
upon Charles for any
thing he can help you
about.
I am sorry not to stay
longer with George, and
carry him about the
Country more.
Tell Charles he must
do it; And not think
he must stick to the

barn all the time.

Of the money I left you you will not need to keep more than $5.00 at any rate for your own expenditures. There is nothing that you can not get charged to you. I told you where to get meat did I not? At Boynton's

You had better buy Peaches to eat at any rate. And whatever you want.

I shall expect to find letters for me at L W Lewis.

Be careful of yourself and Children.

I am going down to
Louisville on the Mail
Packet McLellan
at 12 M. Today Sept 5.
Probably stop at Louisville
part of tomorrow waiting
for a boat

Isaac

Ohio River
Sept. 7 1860

Friday Sept. 7 1860
New Orleans. Vicksburg & Peri.
Steamer, Mary E. Keene
U. S. between Ind. & Kentuy.

My Dearest

Tolerably satiated with watching La Belle Riviere & its verdant & varying banks. I believe I must write you this afternoon. If the writing is hardly as steady as usual you may ascribe it either to the vibrations of a fast high pressure Steamboat or to the effect of its dissipations. I wrote you a bit from Cinn. and intended to write again yesterday from Louisville, but did not get a chance.

I left Cinn. at noon Wed. on the Mail Boat Moses Mc Lellan; reached Louisville before morning. Spent the day in

randling the streets of that fine City, in examining the Louisville & Portland steamboat Canal, around the falls of the Ohio, and in deciding how to get down to Cairo. This splendid Boat, they claim the very finest on the Western waters hardly yet finished, carrying the decorators & workmen who put the finishing touches yet on her, was just starting off her first move, on her way to her business, which is the Bends valley Cotton trade. She is built expressly for that, as a companion to the Gen Quitman & the ———, the two crack boats of the Miss. River, and they claim superior to them in economy new improvements.

This boat draws just as much
water light as the Ohio River
Summer Steamboats when
loaded down; and so goes
out without any freight.
The regular Ohio River Boats
at this season are little pinch
ed up dirty things crowded
with freight. This Boat
charges just double fares.
and goes down full of the
most aristocratic sort of
passengers, wealthy planters
N.O. & Memphis merchants
who have timed their return
from their summer trips to
strike this occasion.
I hesitated about paying $15.00
from Louisville to Cairo; the regu
lar fares being only 7 or 8. but
I found by arrangement or
somehow the only boats going

as far Cairo for the day or two were the very meanest & dirtyest imaginable. The offered to carry passengers to Cairo over for 5 & 6 dollars: but I hardly dared to go aboard them and finally concluded to go the whole figure for once.

It is a regular Aristocratic Company. Lou. & Miss. Planters talking of their five or eight hundred bales, drinking high priced wines enormously, and gambling as I never saw before. This boat runs very fast indeed where it can go: but has to spend about half the time sounding and feeling its way over the sand bars. So it is doubtful after all whether I get to Dubuque by Saturday night.

St Charles Hotel Cairo
Sabbath P.M. Sept. 9
1866

Dearest

I wrote you from Cin. but failed to from Louisville; so it will be a long time that you do not hear from me.

I scribbled a sheet Friday on the steamboat, but there was no chance to send it sooner than to bring it along to Cairo, and mail it tomorrow. I arrived here last night too late for the last train North, and so have to spend the Sabbath here. Leave for DuQuoin at 4.45 tomorrow morning, and get there by 9 A.M. Probably. Hope to find letter there from you waiting for me; I am getting anxious to hear from you & the children.

This St Charles Hotel claims to be a "First Class House", and charges $2.50 per day, but in rooms, beds & table is second or third class compared with the

Mary E. Deane Steamer I came
down the Ohio on. (About as much
difference as between —— a really
comfortable place, and one that isn't quite.
I got my breakfast & sallied out this
morning. I found many crowding into
the Catholic Church, - and a few to the
Methodist, where I found a Sabbath school
at the close of which the Presbyterian Min-
ister, Rev Mr Bartlett, announced that
their Church being under repairs, by
the kindness of the Methodist brethren,
he should preach this morning in that
the Methodist house. Between S.S. &
preaching time (I) stepped into the Cath-
olic Church. They are a very devout
people, even more so than the Epis-
copalians, every one even to the Children
on coming in dipping the finger in the
holy water, then applying it to forehead
then making the sign of the Cross upon
the breast, then kneeling, or taking
some reverent posture. This

this Morning before the tall wax candles always burning, and surrounded with flowers & Crucifixes, a priest in a clear white Robe, beautifully embroidered, was preaching very fluently upon the death of the wicked, quite an orthodox discourse. Any Calvinistic Trinitarian might have used the same language, except that his frequent scriptural quotations were sometimes from the Apochrypha.

I returned to the Methodist Church in time for the service there. The S.S. had numbered about 60. The preaching audience at first was but about 35 but before the close about doubled. The preacher was a very pleasant gentlemanly looking man, evidently of pretty good taste, but the discourse was rather commonplace. At the close he gave notice that there would be no evening preaching, as his mind & efforts were so much engaged through the week that he was un-able to prepare himself

As for the rest of the Sabbath there seems to be no motion to stem the current. Groceries, gambling saloons, and many stores & shops I saw open on my way to Church. I suspect the devil has it pretty much all his own way here.

When I think of it I am sometimes almost sorry I did not ~~stay~~, and not start till this week, on account of George. I am afraid he will have a dull visit: if you have not got any girl, and Charles is so busy about his farm. He ought to ride around the country & see ~~the~~ as well as the people. Though I suppose he cares more about seeing you. Yet variety would not hurt him.

You must write me all about every thing. I can tell nothing when I will get home.

Tell the boys, father says they must be good. Kiss Baby for me

Your own Isaac

DuQuoin, Sept 11. 1860

My Dearest

The letter which I wrote partly on the Louisville & Cairo Boat, and partly at Cairo, and mailed yesterday morning at Cairo will probably reach you two or three days earlier than this.

I arrived here about eight o clock yesterday (Monday Morning) and found awaiting me your letter mailed on the fifth instant, the next day after I left home and enclosing one from Eliab.

I wrote to Eliab since I left Elyria, and will write again today. But I think I will get home soon enough to attend to the business he writes about. I mean to get home next week, perhaps early. — But cannot be at all sure yet.

I am anxious to hear from you again to know how you and the Children, and all get along. I suppose you had very hot weather last week. They complain of it much here. This week is almost very cold so far.

Mr Keyes wrote me various matters - Sundry deeds - and a little money - he says last week. The deeds can wait till I get back.

I am stopping at Keyes. They insisted upon it, although Mrs Keyes has

just now no girl.
Their house is furnished & fixed up very nicely, comfortable & convenient.
Abram Mitchell who now lives here, is building a very nice house large, brick - the finest house in Town. The Smiths, Spragues &c. whom you remember are all well. Mrs Root I have not yet seen; or Mrs Wall, though I have met Dr Wall, and Willard Wall, now a promising young Lawyer of this place.
I must try and see the folks all round; though I have a good deal of business to attend to here, and must hasten it for Mr Keyes has to go to St Louis next week.
I think quite probable that I may get away to go home the first of next week, though it is quite uncertain.
I will write frequently.
Sincerely
Your Son
Isaac

Ira Lucas
Sept 11 1860

Du Quoin
Sept 16 1860

Du Quoin Illinois
Sabbath P.M. Sept. 16 1860

My Dearest

I was a little disappointed in not getting a letter from you yesterday last night. However perhaps the other one came so quick I could not expect another so soon. You wrote Saturday or Sunday, and a bit Monday morning I guessed that Charles & George went to Cleveland Monday & carried that letter; for it was mailed at Cleveland on the Eleventh, Tuesday, and reached me here Wed. night the 12th, Was not that very? I have been anxious to hear again; because you wrote of Wilder's not being very well. By the way I have been sick myself - pretty nearly.

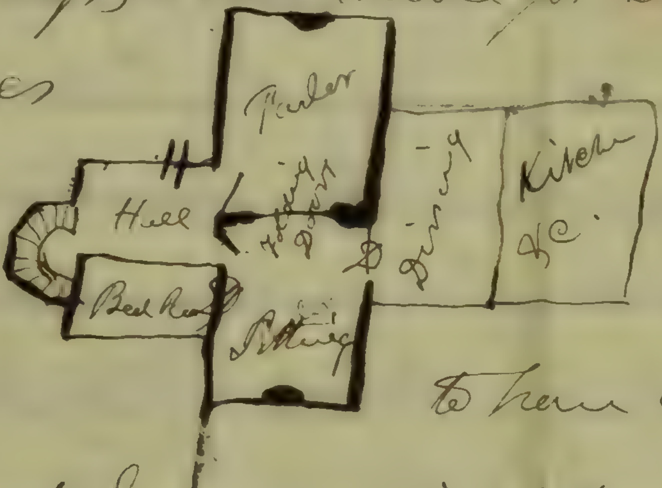
I do not know as I ever felt better than on the boat coming down the Ohio. It was very warm you know, but it was extremely comfortable to sit in the shade, in the fresh south wind, thinly clothed dreamily feasting the eyes all day long. It seemed as if the beauty of the atmosphere & scenery was drank in at every pore as well as by the eyes. But perhaps the excessive laziness joined with the extreme high feeding was not permanently wholesome for me. Saturday night & Sunday there was an extreme change of weather, from very warm to very cold, which it has been since till within a day or two. I had to stop at that most miserable Cairo over the Sabbath and to start at 4 o'clock that damp chilly Monday morning; when I found myself with a very bad cold, whether the effect

of the bad weather, the meanness of Cairo, the high living on the steamboat, or simply the 4 o'clock starting, (an early start, you know, never agrees with me) I cannot tell.

The bad cold was quite severe but in a day or two run off into a very Diar-rhea. Wednesday I was invited over to Geo Smith's to Tea with some others. Perhaps while talking I was careless in eating pickles & cake, perhaps I caught more cold in At any rate for two or three days I could hardly move without feeling as iff every thing inside of me would drop out of me. I did not like to call upon the Doctors, and so addpted the starvation cure, but it had gone so far it took some time to starve it. Mrs Keyes fixed up Toast water for me to drink, a cup of Tea morning & night, & a bowl of Chicken broth at noon. It has been about as much

I wanted to do to walk over to the Office (next lot) and back twice a day. And I did not get really better till last night; but today I begin to feel a good deal like myself again. However I have (man aged to do a pretty good day's work in the Office each day; for I am in a hurry to get back again home.
This Morning I still felt very quiet, and it seemed quite a walk to me over to the Church, but less coming back, and this Afternoon I call myself well.
Mr Post preached. He is the popular preacher here yet. The little Church full all the time. His sermons do not compare very well with Mr Wilbur's; but he has always something to say, and people always like to hear him say it. He may be more useful than Mr W. would be here.

George Smith has a fine house though built more for show than Mr Keyes




The Hall & Stair way is very fine. A very fine house to have company in, designed I guess in reference to when his five daughters go into Society. Eleven Children; the oldest, your old Scholar Hattie is 15, about as large as her mother a pretty & accomplished young lady fine Piano in the Parlor &c.

I was amused to see the Daguerreotypes of four of the Children in one frame, and you could not tell which was oldest or youngest. Aunt Sally, Mrs Root, was there just the same as ever. She and her Ann. I guess are rather looked up to by all here.

Ellen Hall, you remember, and ther

of your old scholars, is to married in a few weeks to Edward Ross. You remember him I guess, handsome chubby faced boy; and his sister like him, Abby Ross from Vergennes or Tuttles' Prairie. And Abby Ross is to be married at the same time to Young Dyer, son of Dr Dyer. Dr Wall's partner in business.
G. Willard Wall, the promising Young Lawyer, "the most promising Young Man in this part of the State", by courting or pretending to court the daughter of Old Nettleton, the Catholic Merchant.
Abram Mitchell is building a large brick house here; will be the largest & finest house in Town.
The great Public Square or Park is fenced with a fine black fence Wood, but looks like Iron though heavy

They take now of moving the County Seat here, & building the Court House in the Middle of the City. It will very likely be sometime. Mr Keyes has got lots of choice plants & shrubbery growing and started around this lot; a great many things that will not grow farther North, I suppose. Some however that I mean to get seeds of to carry home. As every where South there is excess of climbing plants; which you know are scarce with us. One I will bring home seeds of; a Morning Glory leaf with Cypress vine flowers. There are Morning Glories here

flowers four inches across.
That Fringe Tree which you remember in the yard at the Old Farm, is said now to be the finest in the Country, very much larger fuller and finer than it used to be. And I do not know as I ever saw its superior years ago.
The fact is Nettie you ought to visit DuQuoin. You must Sometime.
I hope to get a letter from you tomorrow night.
I mean to get home by the End of this week.
Truly
Isaac

Columbus Oct. 10/61

Columbus Ohio
Oct. 10. 1861

Dearest
Pleasant trip so far.
Did not leave Grafton till 3.20.
Reach here 7.45
Leave here 12 P.M.
Reach Cincinnati 5. A.M. Probably
Leave " 7.30 " 11 to
Reach Centralia perhaps 9 P.M. "

I am a little afraid you may be bothered by Township Trustees Pauper folks. You can send them over to Esquire Paddock.
In urgent case give an Order for Lodging at Eeme's.
But I guess you will not be troubled. Folks down town know I am away.
If there comes Frost, tell Charlie to gather the Summer Squashes to give the Cows. Also if Frost is hard the Tomatoes and the few Hubbard Squashes in the garden. Or cover them up perhaps

I told Charlie not to have the Horse harnessed at all. If you want on Sabbath or any other time You can get Mr Waldo's. It is hardly safe for Charlie to drive or use Old Mary now she has not be used for so long.

You had better pick those Catawba Grapes on the Trellis, when you have time, at least, if there comes frost. If you do not let Mr Finn or some one have those Grapes, You had better make three or four pans full into Juice. You know there are two pans full under ~~the~~ bed in front Chamber. Those, with the Catawba's are enough to save to eat.
Perhaps it would be good to put them in the Tank, as you proposed.

Let Gertrude pick those Lima Beans, before Frost Comes, and Charlie dispose of the vines.

There is abundant work for him to do in the Garden, if he wants Saturdays, or other.
'Twould be well for him to hoe over

his Corn field.
He will take good Care of every thing I guess, when he feels the responsibility.
Tell the boys to be very good.
I should like to kiss Little May tonight
Write me if Mother goes to Sandusky, and for how Long.

Sincerely
Isaac

Cincinnati Ohio
Oct. 11. 1861

My Dearest

I arrived here all right this morning. but found the only through train on Ohio & Miss R.R. was the Evening train at 5 P.M. The Morning going no farther than Seymour, or to Louisville Ky. where I do not care to go. So I stay in Cinn. all day 12 hours. Ride about the Streets &c.
Leave at 5 P.M.
Centralia the next Morning.
Du Quoin probably at Noon.
Write this to keep you advised.

Love &c. [illegible]

Cincinnati
Oct. 11 1861

Du Quoin, Illinois
Sabbath, Oct. 13. 1861

Dear [illegible] Nettie

I wrote a few lines to you from
Columbus, & again from Cincinnati,
and again at Odin, where, on the Ohio
& Mississippi R.R. I reached the Illinois
Central, and had a little while to wait, I
wrote again just to tell you I had got
safely over the unfortunate O. & M. R.R.
but I did not quite get a chance to mail
it there, and after I got away from
there it was no use to mail it till
Monday Morning.
I staid in Cinn. all day Friday.
Left at 5 P.M. There were two accidents
on the Road that day, the debris and
disorder of which, [illegible] us down
so that instead of reaching the Ill. C.
Central at 5 A.M. it was near
8. From there waiting [illegible] by a
a Freight train we finally reached
here at 2 P.M.
People here [illegible] very [illegible], and as every
where else talking only of the war
Mr & Mrs Keyes take their meals
at the Hotel across the street, and
in their nice house, without the trouble
of housekeeping appear very comfortable
We was at Mr & Mrs Mitchells' last
Evening. His is now rather the finest
house in town. but I guess they

they live rather plainly, as their taste doubtless is.
Today have been at Church, & heard Mr Post, of whom you remember. He is however about to stop preaching here. You remember perhaps hearing he lost his wife — last winter, was it — He is married again — a Ross Girl, formerly of Vergennes.
After meeting by urgent invitation went to Dr Wells' to Dinner.
Dr W's health much better than it used to be, a partner to do the hard business, Mrs W., not very well a great many times, but just as she used to be. And like the rest of the old folks very anxious to see you out here.
Ellen, do you remember (married to Ed Ross. lives now at Pulaski, near Cairo. G. Willard a thriving young Lawyer of this ilk lives at home. Quite a promising young man.
DuQuoin improves some in spite of the times. Streets being graded, shade trees set out & growing in Park & [illegible] pretty, &c.
DuQuoin is handsomer, and more prosperous than any of the other villages along the R. Road. At least it seems so to me.
The War is the great thing here ([illegible]. Mr Pease is Col Pease is Commissioned, and raising a

regiment for the War.
Jessy, I do not know as you remember him, Wm. Centralia Carpenter, is Major in a Cavalry Regiment.
Harry Given is raising Cavalry.
His younger brother [illegible] came [illegible] here about the time you left, and has been with him on R. Rds here. [illegible] has died this summer;
J. Bradford [illegible], you [illegible] [illegible] was with us, & since of Geo. T. Smith & Co. has gone ~~with~~ in a Cavalry regiment, and a younger brother also.
In the 18 [illegible] now in Missouri, Dr. [illegible], one of the oldest Physicians here, came here about the time you left, is Lieut. Col. & [illegible] [illegible], who was with me the 1st year I was here, is Major.
Perhaps you remember a large lot of the Old folks about the station here, [illegible] of [illegible] Missouri about the time we began the Village here. Pyles, [illegible] & McIlvains, Atkins &c among the rest the Atkins [illegible] bought the farm of where the Village now is. They are all driven off, burnt out, stript of every thing, lost all they possessed. Except [illegible] who turned Secesh. Teague who was killed at Wilson's Creek, and Fannin, who is still Officer in Rebel Army.
Well I want to hear from you

How you all do & be.
How Charley get along with all the things &c. &c. &c. &c. &c. &c. &c.
Whether there is any Frost there (There has been Frost every where between <u>there</u> & here. & <u>very little</u> even here.
Oh it is most splendid weather here now. The Regular Egyptian October weather, the best in the year, and the finest in the world. By the way this is a little the finest Climate in the world, is it not?
Do you not wish you lived here? Almost I do some times.
Write me as soon as you get this, and perhaps I will come home as soon as I get that letter of yours.

Sincerely

Yours Isaac

Dr Lewis
Oct. 13 1861

Du Quoin
Oct. 16 1861

Du Quoin Ill.
Oct. 16 '61

My Dearest

Too dark to see, so I write you a minute.

Very Well.

Very busy.

No letters from home yet.

Monday took tea at Mitchells

Tuesday P.M. with Keyes to Elk Prairie, about Smith, Keyes & Metcalf land. Rode 20 Mls.

Today spent a hour or two underground in Coal Mine

All very first rate

Rather think now I will
go to Chicago early
next week.
Home last thereof.

Want to hear from you.
Love & Kisses for Molly
& Children
Suppose Mother is gone to
Perkins this week?
Take Care of Yourself as well
as the others
Your
Isaac

Mattoon
Oct. 16 1862

Oct. '62

Mattoon Ill. Thurs 16
1 P.M.

Dearest

All along well [illegible]
wait nearly an hour at Grap.
— Two hours at Crestline
slept well to Indianapolis 7 A.M.
Crowds — crowds of soldiers
volunteers, Drafted, sick
discharged, furloughed &c. &c.
Indianapolis even more
than Columbus is a great
Camp; more soldiers, and
more in the City. At Colum
bus the Camp is a little away
from the City you know.
Came here at 1 P.M.
But delays by the way will
prevent my getting to
Du Quoin before Midnight
I suppose——

Please take good care of yourself and not get tired & sick.
I left some directions for Charlie.
There are some Pears on two trees in the Garden. Winkfields & Angouleme that ought to be picked before it freezes much.

I do not believe it will freeze to hurt the grapes.
The little boys better pick up the apples as they fall.
Apples down cellar should be looked at. I forget whether I told Mr Waldo where to put Potatoes in a Bbl under Apples.
If Darling hands Mamma there he must put it on the S. W. Post where

the crops are off.
I guess he will not haul any till I get home.
I forgot to set Gertrude to cleaning thorough ly ~~that~~ Sorghum — Cask. must be done before it is filled.
Take care of self
Kiss little folks for me
J.
Sincerely
J. S.

| | |
|---|---|
| [illegible] | |
| [illegible] | 1.20 |
| [illegible] | 18.75 |
| [illegible] | 60 |
| [illegible] | .80 |

Du Quoin
Oct 17 1862

Du Quoin [illegible] 17 [illegible] 1862

[illegible]

[illegible]

[illegible]

[illegible]

[illegible]

Sincerely

Isaac

Du Recoin 1

Oct 19 1862

[illegible]

[illegible]

to wash ... and the [illegible]

[illegible]

inviting.

[illegible]

[illegible] from

the Old Town [illegible]

... for Six Months.

[illegible]

[illegible] a hundred
has been 150 through the summer.

[illegible]

[illegible]

Skinner [illegible]

this village, Capt. in [illegible] 18[illegible] received a
commis[illegible]
ence. [illegible] have been killed
[illegible].

[illegible] 40

[illegible]

Monday morning first [illegible]
of the [illegible]

D.W. Quin
Oct. 26 1862

[illegible]

And [illegible]

When shall I get home?

[illegible]

Sandusky
Jan. 27 1863

Sandusky Jan. 27 '63
West House

Dearest
Arrived here at 12 M.
Wait till 5 P.M. Then
to Monroeville 15 Miles, then
with evening train from
Cleveland to Toledo, and
by Wabash Valley to Illinois.
Quite a storm today, not so much
snow here; but quite a prospect
of Cold I think.
I want you should write to me,
no matter if only a few words,
if you have time for no more,
as often, or oftener as every other day, for
the present at least; till better
weather & we can feel better
about the Children.
You know I shall feel very anx

anxious now till I hear
from you.
I guess you will get along.
If the weather continues as it
has been this month past
you like every body else may
be troubled for wood. But
I guess Mr Waldo will look
after it in some shape.
One think I forgot to men
tion to Mr Waldo: John Lane
is coming when there is fair
weather to put up Eave troughs
at the Barn, and Mr Waldo
will be wanted fix & box up
the Water Conductor where it
goes in the Cistern, to protect
it. But Charley, or perhaps
Lane can speak to Waldo
about it.
Charley Rich will see to every
thing well I guess.
Do no heart for you & Mother

to ask him about it occasionally. — To keep watch of the Slop Barrell — to keep the Gates fast shut, and the Cattle out of the Garden — To take good care of the animals, and not waste the hay. The horse will need no Oats, give her her feed of Corn every day, and Carrotts, and turn her out with the Colts every pleasant day. She will not need to be harnessed while I am gone, without Dr DeWitt wants her, or you want and can trust Charley to drive her to Church or somewhere.

Please put Charley in mind — if there should be cold weather — to look

out — that all the animals
get a good chance for
water.

Finally — You and Mother
take good care of your
selves — not tire out
or make your selves
sick —
And write to me

Sincerely

Isaac

Chicago
Jan. 28 1863

Adams House Chicago
Jan. 28 1863

Dearest.

Arriving at Toledo an hour late last night, found the Wabash train which I intended to take had gone - did not wait for the delayed Cleveland train. So I transferred myself instead to the M.S. & N.I. R.R. train for Chicago. Had a good nights rest — fr 12 P.M. to 8 A.M. and duly arrived at Chicago before noon.

No snow at all here, or for a hundred miles east of here. Here today the weather is delightful Clear, bright & bracing; just barely cool enough to keep the ground froze, and roads good.

I found today DeWitt C. Rowley
and Charles H. Thaxter together
with Clinton Furbish & Co. at
24 River St. Chicago, Produce
Commission Business. Both
appeared very glad to see me.
and wanted me to stop & go
out to see their folks, Rowley
lives at Waukegan, Thaxter
at Cleaverville 5 or 6 miles out.
Rowley has been to Pikes
Peak, and spent a year
or so at Warren Ohio in
the Oil Region, Oil Well, has
riven, besides doing almost
every thing (I guess, in his
beloved Chicago.)
No person in the world he would
give more to see than you Tittie.
He may be a better man than
Thaxter; but is not so 'much of
a man', as Thaxter. - I guess

I shall go South on the Night
Train tonight, 8.45 P.M.
I believe it is. And probably
get to Dr Quin's sometime to
morrow. And remain
Anxious to hear from you
and the Children.

Isaac. S. M—

DuQuoin
Jan. 29 1863

Illinois
DuQuoin Perry Co
Jan. 29 1863

Dearest:
Arrived here in good condition about Noon today.
Mr Keyes absent at Springfield
Miss Keyes still here
living & boarding in rooms at the Public House, another family in their house, which makes it not quite so pleasant for me.
Mining business apparently prospering. Miners making about almost a dollar an hour while they work.
Proprietors ought to make something!

Chetty Keyes is at work reg-
ularly in the mine, as
a "trapper". Took a notion
to — and he of course does.
11 years old, little bigger than
Wilder or Charley, 50 cts per
day! I do not know what
will become of the boy,
Dr Wall laid up with
bruises obtained leaping off
the cars.
Abram Mitchell another
child, girl, two months
old, Jake Mitchell ditto.
General good of health
Great beautiful weather
such as only Southern
Illinois can have
I believe.
Will write again soon
Please write, very anxious
to hear from you Isaac

Du Quoin
Feb. 1 1863

Du Quoin Perry Co. Illinois
Sabbath P.M. ~~Jan~~ Feb. 1 '63

My Dear One

How troubled do you think I was, and am, when the end of the week came and passed, and I got no letter from home. How I did want to hear from you all. How I conjured up visions of Wilder sick, or May sick, or Baby sick; Mother and Nettie worn out tired & sick with taking care of sick children. However I take good heart of hope. Probably you are all well and hearty, and needing me much less than I need you, or at least need to hear from you. And I shall doubtless hear sometime in due season. I have not failed to write you.

I wrote to you the day I left home,
Tuesday from Sandusky,
Wednesday " Chicago,
Thursday " Dubuque.
The first you probably got Wednesday
the second Friday, and the third
you may get Monday or Tuesday.
I had nothing to write in them,
and there was no necessity of
writing; only that I was so
anxious to hear from you
that I could not help writing
whenever I could get a chance.
Mr Keyes is away at Springfield
so I have not yet seen him.
Nor been able to do any thing
hardly. Yesterday Mr Keyes
being absent, I paid the miners
$1275.00 for two weeks work. They
are paid regularly every two
weeks. A good miner can make
a dollar per hour in the mine now
but they make it a rule that no

Miner shall work more than two dollars a day; or rather that all over that amount shall go into their common (Miners Union) fund. It is the miners who make the money this winter; but they will bite their own noses off I imagine in the end.

I have called round to see the folks, some. Mrs Keyes in her room at the public house looks darker & gloomier than ever. She has not been to Ohio yet, but talks of going in the Spring. And says she wants to go to Africa.

Common report speaks of another book. Sequel to "Life among the Angels" that Father Miller has married a girl in the Spirit world, And moreover that the Devil is dead, and that a man from Carbondale below here, now in that region has taken his place.

I guess Mrs Keyes is crazy
— or always was.
Mr Keyes — perhaps naturally
does not improve under it.
I imagine his health fails.
He may not live long.
What will become of Robert?
The celebrated — or notorious Rhet
Keyes. I guess he is full as
well known in this region as his
father. I wrote you I believe
of his working regularly in the
mine — a trapper — that is a
boy to tend the traps or door-
ways, passage ventilators.
Says he is going to Mining, as
soon as he gets a little stouter.
Mrs Mitchell has a fine girl baby
eight weeks old Bessy Bell by
name.

Today. Rose & breakfasted at 7 A.M. immediately to a Sabbath School which I found at the Campbellite Church, Auburn S.T. They tried to sing twice. Some one tried to pray a little, and for the rest they read over the testament in classes, a verse apiece around that was all.
Then to Presbyterian where I listened to a tolerable discourse on Baptism origin, subjects & obligations. discourse tolerably good, but delivered painfully both to speaker and hearer, on account of some defect in the throat.
This afternoon to Presbyterian S.S. which is a very nice one, under the management of our wise Mr Hatch - the Connecticut Dry goods merchant. The S.S. numbers about a hundred, the fill of the

the part of the house. The previous
audience was about 30 or 40.
The Sabbath School with 100 scholars
and near 20 teachers, and kept
up and made interesting by having
a smart superintendent &c.

But Children as well as Grown
People, are more easily interested
& not more easily kept interested
here than in Elyria.
By the way, Elyria is kind of an
old worn out place, do you not
think it? Or would it be more
proper to say the place is finished?
This place is new.
Which is the best kind of a place
to live in.
Will the Tea Bell ring?
Please write

Isaac

D W Lucas
Feb. 2 1863

E. D. W. Lucas Perry Co. Illinois
Monday Feb. 2 1863

Dear Ones at Home:

Was I not greatly rejoiced to get your letter today noon. It came unusually quick too. Postmarked Saturday 31, reached here the second day after. It must have used the Sabbath pretty well for its journey.

I wish you had written more particularly about the Children Wilder especially. Has Charley's throat been worse since I came away? You wrote of putting cinnamon on all their throats. I hope the Baby's nose is better by this time. Do you suppose her throat is sore as well as her nose? We are all well.

the Negro got home today
(Noon) — most sick.
It has been very beautiful weather
ever since I have been here until
today it is quite cold, Only a
bout 15 above Zero this morning
moderating to 20 or higher &
a fine Snow storm commencing.

Last night I went to the Campbellite
Church, and heard a celebrated
Power — a natural Orator. And
he really made the best argument
I ever heard for the peculiar idea
of the Sect. Let me give it to you
Christ rules this world. He is the Sa-
vior of Sinners. When he was in
the world he exercised his Sovereign
will, saved whom and as he would.
But when he went away he left
a law, a rule a way by which
men could be saved. (This he
made out quite skillfully) If he

made a law, appointed a way,
of course that is the way, the only
way. What is that way?
Ans. Believe (of course) and be baptised.
Saul on the way to Damascus, saw
the vision - he asked the Lord what he
should do. The Lord did not tell him
sent him to his servants to whom
he had given the commission.
Ananias told him 'Be baptised
for the remission of sins'.
&c. &c. It seems ridiculous
but he did really state it ably.
Well
Please write often
Sincerely
Isaac:

O, I forgot what I begun to write
for. You mention receiving Keys
letters. Do not say what was in them
please see, if there is any thing
I want to know. Write out a Bank

And send to Louis Plank

for Collection.
After all, I do not know
if it is collectable without
my signature.
You can show it to Dr DeWitt
and see what he says
Perhaps it will have to wait
for my return.

Isaac,

I. Mercay

Du Quoin
Feb. 5 1863

Du Quoin Perry Co. Ill.
Feb. 5, 1863

Dearest Nettie

Monday I received your letter mailed Jan. 31st, and Wednesday I received the one mailed the 29th! Quite a pretty specimen of the irregularities of the mails.

I wrote to you Jan 27th fm Sandusky
" 28 " Chicago
" 29 " Du Quoin
Feb 1st " "
" 3d " "

If I had had any thing to write I think I might have been called a pretty good letter writer.

I have also written to Eliab, and to your Father.

I wrote to your Father that if I should let Herbert have that

that money, I would still be holden for it. He ~~should~~ retain my note or endorsement.
However Herbert told me before I left home that he did not want it at ten per cent which I agreed to pay you know. He thought he could get money at six per cent. But I shall probably have to endorse for him at that. And I presume with my endorsement he can now get money for six percent.

I was a little amused at a bit of note in your letter of 29th which slip'd a note by the way I lost out of the envelope on the ground near the DuQuoin P.O. in the dark night. — but happened to find again.

Do you not think that Herbert Brooks had better go to California this Spring?

Really I do not know but it is. Doubtless he could do very well there with his Uncle.
He would be quite a valuable acquisition to society, social and religious here in Duluth if he should come here. Our good people here are quite anxious about it. But he would be an acquisition anywhere, especially in a new place.
Mine Ellie, fret not thyself about money matters. Trust in the Lord and verily thou shalt be fed. You know I always told you you were to inherit the earth. Only you must help me, as you ever do, to take care that earthly prosperity injure not the prospect of a better inheritance. Perhaps it may be good for us having been poor for a few years thus learning to spend to best advantage.

We are in comfortable circumstances, Ettie, a very pretty little property in Elyria, part of it a very comfortable — decent at least, place to live, part of it bringing in a little income.

We have at least five or six thousand dollars ~~of it~~ at interest, two thousand of it in U. S. Government Bonds. This ~~these~~ besides this Du Quoin property, in view of which, we must take care to bring up our children so that the inheriting a fortune will not injure them.

As for friends, Ettie, they are at the worst, only a necessary evil, (therefore not to be complained of.) Besides few have profited less by friends than we have, and consequently few have better friends than we have. What do you think of that?

Will

Isaac

Dr Quaim
Feb 5 1863

Feb. 5th P.M.

Great Snow Storm & Cold too
Egyptians exulting in prospect
of fine sleighing. (mailed 3d)
Your letter of the 3d enclosing
one from Bangor came to hand
today. The deed I guess
can wait till I get home.
The Draft for $100.00 from Mr Keyes
I wrote you about.
[illegible] will have to
wait for my signature too.
I am a little anxious a
bout Hay & the Baby
You must write frequently.
If they are sick send for the
Doctor. I have been a
fraid all the time of that
persistent swelling in Hays
throat. Do you keep it
wrapped in flannel?

I am afraid Wilder will
take cold again, if he goes
to school. I would like
to hear that the Baby's throat
is well. I am afraid that
you and Mother will make
yourselves sick in taking
care of the children. Do be
careful both of you.
And write often.
I will write to Wilder I guess.

Sincerely
Isaac

Du Quoin
Feb. 8 1863

Du Quoin, Illinois
Sabbath Evening
Feb. 8. 1863.

Dear Nettie & Dear Mother

I thought I would turn this sheet over, lest you should think I was at work in the Mine Office on the Sabbath Day. I sit in mine own room in exceeding quiet, and long to see you both and the dear children too. I did hope to get another letter Yesterday, but did not. I am anxious about you all the time, Anxious lest the Children should be sick, and lest the Mother and Grand Mother should make themselves sick watching and caring for them. And here all this week past long, I have been doing nothing, just waiting & loafing, and doing nothing to any amount, might just as well have been at

2

home getting up wood. I imagine it has been good and cold, frozen up, and good sleighing at Elyria. I hope Mr Walde has got up a good pile of wood. It has been really cold here, one morning 2° below Zero of Farinheit. and what is perhaps as strange two days good sleighing. But yesterday & todays the snow has all melted off, and the frost is fast thawing out. I may not come home for two or three weeks yet. But I do want to hear from you often.

It has been exceeding Muddy & sloppy today, Only 32 at Church this Morning, but over 100 at S. School this Afternoon. No Meeting this eve. And none at any of the Churches I guess on account of the exceeding dark and Mud.
It has been rather a dull day. including a very dull sermon this morning

Office of the Du Quoin Coal Mining and Manufacturing Company.
DU QUOIN, Ills., 1863.
The quality of this Coal has been tested for 5 years and needs no better recommendation than its use.
Address all Orders to
B. D. VANDRUVER, SUP'T.

Do you remember Mrs Guitteau
Nettie, Mrs Fulton's Oldest daughter, Sis
ter of your little nurse girl. She died
yesterday. Her husband is in
the Army 1st Lieut Ill. 6th Cav.
with Brad. Skinner &c. &c.
They did live in Old DuQuoin Village
next house to the School house. After
wards on a farm out North of the Vill.
Your kitchen Pump I think Waldo
might have fixed, if he had tried,
just take out the Piston & upper
valve. I reckon the valve gets
turned over somehow. However
I hope if not otherwise ~~he~~ you have
got John Lane to fix it before this
time. The Man who came to
see about that Hat Stand. I
meant to tell you about that.
He only needed to look at the
place to see what kind of a
thing there was room for. I
thought he understood it himself.
It will only put off the time of having
it complete.

Office of the Du Quoin Coal Mining and Manufacturing Company
DU QUOIN, Ills., 1863.
The quality of this Coal has been tested for 5 years
and needs no better recommendation than its use.
Address all Orders to
B. D. VANDRUVER,
Sec'y.

It would not hardly do for us to have an income of five or six thousand a year from DuQuoin coal, would it? What do you think of it Mother, and Nettie? Would it ruin us all. Well if it was any where else we ought to have. Had we better feel satisfied as it is to get out of it with a whole skin? Or save it to ruin our Children. Chance for argument.

Well I want to come home but I do not know yet when I can.

Please take good care of yourselves, and write often

Sincerely
Isaac

I S Metcalf

Sunday Feb. 7 1863

Your letter of the 5th inst. mailed the 6th came to hand today and as I had not mailed my letter written last night I will write a little more.

The letters I have received from you bear 1st & 3d pages date Jan. 29

" 31

Feb. 3

" 6.

Four letters from home.

I was very glad to have you write so particularly about the children. I presume every thing goes just as well with them as if I were there, perhaps better, and yet I cannot help feeling anxious. I shall want you to write very often & particularly about Little May.

Very glad that little baby is better
I was getting anxious about her
bad breathing and sore throat
holding on so long.

Quite an achievement of
Charley's getting Gay Pond
out of the River, was it not?

Hope you will write often
if only a few words, every
day if the children are sick.

My health is first rate
but my sickness not
very good.

Great cold Snow Storm you
had Thurs 5th. So had we, and
cold weather before it too. I am
afraid you have not had
any good sledding yet for
Mr Wilder to get up wood.

Sincerely

A. J. Metcalf

Isaac Diller
March 17
1863

Springfield [illegible] March 17 1863

Dearest

Arrived here safely about midnight last night, after quite a comfortable journey. [illegible] Mr Keyes at [illegible] on way to Springfield to attend a meeting of Coal Proprietors. Expect him home tomorrow — probably.

Fine weather here. Quite dry and roads good. Farming operations progressing considerably.

Coal Business is prosperous.

A Draft starting from here a day or two since for one through Chicago probably will reach you in a day

or Mis. (I'll coming Monday Chicago with request for answer, please reply to it. And handed it over to Traders Bank, as you did before. You can endorse it too if necessary

16.5 / 5280 ft.
165
825
990
165
40 25
272.

4 / 320 Rods
80

29 / 160 ( 5.
145
15
29/160

495
330
272¼

a ¼

16.5
40
660.0

660
12
272¼ / 7920 ft. ( 29 Rods
54450
247500
248025

I should like to get home before that School Exhibition; if I do not you and Mother must contrive to attend it, and report of it to me.

Please ask Mr Waldo to go up to my pasture and shut up the gates so as to keep stock out, turning out if any have got in there. I forgot all about it before I left home

I will write to the Lill[illegible] very pretty soon.
Please write to me.
Please slave not too much.
Take care of your selves, your Sittie & Mother, and get not too tired or work too much.
If you can hear of any body to come to do sewing at your house please do so.

Truly & respectfully
J. S. Pierce[illegible]

Isaac Indianapolis

March 18 1863

Indianapolis. Indiana

Dear Ones

Have an hour or two to wait here this morning. Have walked round the City till I got tired — seen the State House, churches, and various public buildings. And sitting down write to you

Mr Jenkins has fixed up some bitters for May. After Dr De La Mater's prescription which Dr Strong thought May had better take. It is an 'Iron tonic' I suppose. You had better get it, and give her some perhaps. He said the dose for an adult was three table spoons full, three times

per day, before eating. Thrice teaspoons full would be the dose for a Child, Perhaps better not take so much at first.

Here is beautiful pleasant weather, ground thoroughly settled, even dusty, vegetation beginning to come forward Rhubarb, Radishes and Greens in Market.

Our Lake Shore has a late disagreeable Spring to pay for a fine fall.

Please write to me.

If you get out of Flour Hitchcock will send you up a barrell, if you ask him to do it.

And I guess your Credit is tolerably good anywhere

I. S. Metcalf

March 20th

Mr Keyes did not return last night as expected. So I have not so much to do. Fear it may detain me longer than I want to stay here, if he does not get home pretty soon. I am quite anxious to hear from you & the children. Hope I will get a letter from you today. Have been looking over Coal Accounts. It is being really a profitable business - since Sept. last Before that it was bad enough.

Balance Sheet Sept 1st to Dec. 31st 62 shows Balance Profits $7964.37

Considerable of this goes to permanent improvements, additions to Capital Stock. And a good deal of it is unsettled accounts; Three or four thousand balance due from R.R. Co. which you know is always a month or two behind in Payments. Two or three thousand also in accounts against other parties.

My health is first rate — much improved
I think by the change of climate.
Beautiful Spring weather here as ever
upon day. Like Elyria forenoons in
May perhaps.
Hope to hear that you have finer weather
before this in Ohio.
I mean to be home next week.
Take Care of yourselves.
Sincerely
I. S. [illegible]

Isaac [illegible]
March 20 '63

Isaac Du Quoin
March 21 / 63

Du Quoin Illinois
Saturday March 21
1863

My Dearest

Yours of the 18th (mailed the nineteenth) came to hand today noon. Very gladly rec^d of course. Five days I had known nothing about you except by imagination. That is except what I knew before.

The weather here is exceeding fine. There will be no finer weather in Ohio in May, than it has been here [illegible] since I have been here. Ground all nice and dry gardens looking very finely indeed.

my new pair of clothes
suits me, it fits me
much, admirably.
It is beautiful cloth.
I wish we had more of
it. I ought to have had
two pairs of pants instead
of one of it.
I have wrote you two or three
times since I left home
I wrote particularly of one
thing I forgot before I
left. — I want Mr
Walker to go up to my
Pasture, and hunt
up the gate &c. to keep
out and driving out
any animals which
might trespass there
in. Yours truly &c

Isaac

Du Quoin
March 24 '63

March 24 1863
Du Quoin

Dear Inez

I do not know but I may start home tomorrow or next day, and get there before this letter will. But may not and so write.

Great rains Sunday and Monday, after the beautiful weather of last week. But the rain helps to bring forward vegetation. Leaves are coming out, & blossoms too; and grass is considerable.

The Prairies nature are green as grass

Coal business is prosperous and is to be — to the benefit of our pockets.

I have received the first fruits
from the new mines
"Tejon & Williams' 'Vein Colliery'"
commenced in February, paid
over for the first month's rent
Feb. 1863 $10.50 My 1/6 = $1.75
Is not that an income.
However they propose to double it
every month. March 1863 will
be $20.00 at least, and April
they expect $40. or $50.00
If they keep on so it will amount
to something in time.
However the Dudwin Mills
which have been mining a little
under themselves this winter
yesterday paid over Royalty for
to March 1 1863 $77.00 & my
1/2 of this $38.50
So every foot of Coal down
under us here is something.

Sincerely Isaac

+ See a letter today

Isaac DuQuoin
March 26
1863

DuQuoin Illinois
Thursday Mar 26
1863

My Dearest

I suppose by the time this reaches you, you will have discovered that I shall not get home this week.
The Miners are Striking this week; I guess they will not strike me to hurt, and propose to stop and see how it comes out. Next Monday will be April 1st, the great Striking day throughout. The strike I expect. Mr Keyes is not very well, and I will stay and see if I may do any good. I shall prob-ably come home sometime the first or Middle of next Week.

beautiful weather exceed[ing]-
ingly, and I enjoy it all
the more for getting a nice
letter from you today.

Sunday & Monday, after a
week of very fine weather, was
a great rain. Since then
they call it cold, thermo. & plenty
just a little frost, but bright
clear sunshiny days.
But the damp & colder wea-
ther does not agree with
in keeps I think. His
health fails I fear.

All good to you all.

Love

My health is extraordinarily good
especially since I have found
a prick [illegible] [illegible]

Camp Cuyahoga O.
Aug. 27 1863

First Reg't
Camp Cuyahoga
Aug. 27 1863
Thursday P.M.

Dearest

Full of business, drill &c &c. Great labor and confusion in getting things organized in Camp for first time. Still every thing goes off very well, our Lorain people, boys we call all here have been very fortunate in quarters &c. &c. for which they give me credit some.

Probably can not get home Saturday.

Anxious to hear from you all, Eliab especially as well as the rest

Thine, J. S. Metcalf

Camp Cuyahoga
Aug. 31 1863

[illegible]
[illegible]
[illegible]
[illegible]
[illegible]
[illegible]
[illegible] person, or [illegible]
[illegible] appearance [illegible]
[illegible] — The only [illegible]
[illegible] [illegible] of [illegible]
[illegible] the [illegible], [illegible]
[illegible] [illegible] the [illegible] with
a [illegible] [illegible] [illegible]
[illegible] [illegible] [illegible]
the G. A. R. [illegible] Parade,
[illegible] [illegible] [illegible] [illegible]
[illegible] consequence, all
[illegible] and forming a [illegible]
double [illegible] [illegible] a [illegible]
long [illegible] [illegible] [illegible]
[illegible] the [illegible] [illegible]
the [illegible] [illegible] [illegible]
[illegible] [illegible] the [illegible]

my officer reading the
orders of the day, etc.
Parade dismissed!
and all march back again
to their quarters.
In the while I have seen a
great many worse Sabbaths
and in worse places. The Militia
[illegible] I am nominally
[illegible] of them. Of our
Company, that is all men
officers from our First Regiment
of Lorain Co. of which I sup-
pose I am soon to be Colonel
there is certainly not a single
Copperhead, and apparently
not a single bad man; not
a single habitually profane
swearer. I spoke to my men
Sabbath morning requesting them
to observe the proprieties of the day
and it was evident to see their
manner it pleased them and

how will this be used [illegible]
your Card [illegible]
most universal [illegible]
[illegible] was [illegible]
[illegible].

[illegible] Rent [illegible] from you
yesterday did me as [illegible]
good

The [illegible] be [illegible]
will break up Saturday [illegible]
Probably in season for us
to get home by afternoon [illegible]
[illegible]
[illegible]
[illegible].

glad to [illegible]
[illegible]

[illegible]

Bace: Albany N.Y. Ls Oct. 1863

Oct 22d 63

Albany, Thurs.

Dearest

We have not got to Boston today as expected. Came on nicely & hastily as far as Schenectady where before 4 oclock this morning we were stopped finding a Freight Train Off Track in the way. And waited there 6 hours before the wreck could be removed & track re paired. So we were too late here for both 5 & 9.30 A.M. Trains wait over till 3.30 P.M. However We take it easy Both had a good nights rest last night. Today have walked the little fellow all around Albany, Statehouse, Court Room &c. &c. &c. State Agricultural & State Natural History Rooms &c. &c. Makes quite a day of Sights seeing for him. Instead of getting to Boston before Noon, we shall not until Midnight. But Charley can sleep in the Cars some.

We will get to Yarmouth Friday noon & stop there 24 hours I think. I wrote you a hasty note from Rochester last night while Charley slept. I do not know if you may get it. It was mainly because I forgot to tell you that I had changed the Cleveland Paper to Morning Edition so you could send down at noon and get that & Mail too.

Whether Charley R or Wilder go down, they had better come home first, so you can send for whatever else you want at same time. Then if you have dinner punctually at 12 M. there is time for any thing. I hope Wilder is better am anxious to hear. If his tongue is coated or stools white or bad you had better give him the cum Costa or get Dr DeWitt to look at him.

Love & kisses

Isaac

Bangor Oct. 25 '63
Sabbath P.M.

Dearest

I have written a bit to you once or twice during the delays of our journey, but I believe did not write as I intended from Yarmouth. We were hindered 6 hours at Schenectady on acct of an accident to a Freight train before us. That made us late at Albany for the Eastern trains, so we had to wait nearly 6 hours longer than and instead of reaching Boston before noon Thursday, did not until Midnight. Charley got very tired at Schenectady and Albany, and went to sleep pretty

pretty soon after we got in the Cars. He slept about all the way to Boston, then went right to Bed at the U.S. Hotel and slept till 6 o'clock when we got breakfast and started for Maine, where we arrived (at Yarmouth) at 2 P.M. Charley eat a very hearty breakfast at the U.S. Eat considerable, apples, pop corn &c. &c. in the Cars. At Yarmouth he eat a hearty dinner at 2 and I ought to have known better than to let him eat a very hearty supper one hot biscuit & cake just before going to bed. So it was my fault that the next Morning found him Crying for home with head ache & stomach ache.

He was really sick, quite a high fever, and severe stomach ache dur all day. But Starvation Cure worked admirably: he did not want to and did not eat a single mouthful of any thing solid or liquid, hardly even drink water till sunset and then only a peice of bread as big as his little finger, and today he is as bright as a bird

They are very well at Yarmouth George is exceedingly well situated one of the best Parishes in the State in all respects. I can tell you all about him and his place when I get home. Father's health is very good. Has not been better for 20 Years he says. Fanny I like very much. I presume they will all be out to see us next year, father & all, if all goes well as now. To tell you all about them & theirs must be deferred till I get home.

Arrived here at 8 P.M. Eliab, Marcia & Mary Elley left here last Monday morning. Staid in Boston till Thurs

Thursday morning, (Same time I was in Boston, thence to Chester Connecticut where I believe Marie expected to remain while Eliza went to New York.

Charley & I propose to go up to Milo tomorrow, When we shall get back depends somewhat upon Mother. Will write from there

Sincerely Isaac

[illegible] 1863

Monday evening

Sarah

I wrote to you last night from Bangor a letter which would go today, but if I mail this tonight it will be two days later. Eliza & Maria not being at home we started this Monday Morning by Stage Coach at 6 o'clock and came up here. Bitter cold day. Froze so hard last night that the ice is not all melted in shady places. Every body complaining of the cold. But we arrived here in good condition this afternoon. Charley seems well, and quite lively. All we seem to lack now is letters from Lizzie, and to know how children & all are.

Mother is quite well, got over her cold &c. The rest all well. Little Lucy Eliza's Lucy is here, running with Charles' Anna, and really rosy cheeked Mother says for the first time.

Sincerely

Isaac

Isaac Milo
Oct. 26th 1863

KEYES & METCALF'S COAL DU QUOIN, ILLINOIS.

OFFICE OF THE

Du Quoin Coal Mining & Mfg. Co.

DU QUOIN, ILLS. Dec. 5 1863

Dearest

I wrote yesterday after I got here, and directed the letter to Wilder, thinking it might encourage him a little. One thing I intended to write yesterday & day before both. I told Potter the Photographer I would send round to him that other Daguerreotype of Sister Lucy to copy. and I forgot it before I left. I do not know whether it is at home or at Doctor DeWitt's. Mother knows about it. You can send it by Wilder or Charley Rich. Note on it, "To be copied 6 cards"

I want to hear from you every day, I would like to.

Sincerely

Isaac

DuQuoin
Dec. 3 1863

KEYES & METCALF'S COAL DU QUOIN, ILLINOIS.

OFFICE OF THE Du Quoin Coal Mining & Mfg. Co.

DU QUOIN, ILLS. Dec. 7 1863

Dearest Nettie

I most always write to you when I am here on the Sabbath Day, whether I do other times or not. (Yesterday I did not happen to have any pen & ink. But, Oh how I did want a letter from you. I really expected one Saturday but it did not come.

Yesterday was Episcopalian day. The Presbyterians have preaching but half the time, and the other half an Episcopalian Clergyman from Jonesboro. Mr Brittain, holds forth. You remember perhaps the three Curates in "Shirley". I think this must be one of them, though I am not quite certain. It seemed almost ridiculous to see the little pompous, rather scanty brained Irishman come in there; (no vestry or dressing room you know) and dress himself in his white robes right before the audience, and then go through with all the minutiae of the Service, so almost absurdly, trying to intone in the fashionable high Church style. Well it was almost laughable, and quite tiresome — to me at least.

At Church there were 40 or 50 for Audience
At the Sabbath School at 3 O. P.M. there were
nearer a hundred & fifty — the little Church
Crowded full. and Apparently quite in-
teresting. Damon Thing, you perhaps
remember him, is very sick, apparently about
to die. Mr Keyes says he has starved himself
to death these six years. "It might be all very
'well leaving off Tea and Coffee & all meat,
'if he had eaten any thing else good. But
'Bran & Sawdust alone dont answer."
Dr Wall has branched out. Times are so good
every body so well off he cant get two
per cent a month for his money. So
he has just put up a Brick 3 Story
block on Main Street. Stores Offices &c.
I hope you will write to me often
I shall feel bad if I do not get
a letter today Sincerely Isaac

Dr Lucius
Dec 7 1863

Du Quoin
Dec. 10 '63

Du Quoin, Perry Co. Ill.
Thurs Dec. 10 1863

Dear Nettie

Your letter mailed 8th came to hand today; pretty quick time. I received one day before yesterday mailed 5th.

I am very glad that Baby has got to sleeping in the bed nicely. It must be better for her in winter weather.

Mr Wilbur's Lecture Missionary seems quite an innovation for him. What started it.

Eliab is going to build. I am almost sorry to hear it. It will be a chance if he does not lose upon it. And yet it will doubtless be better for him to have something to do. He was getting almost quite uneasy for lack thereof.

People ask when I will return.
I hope to get home before Christmas
but it is doubtful. I presume
every thing will get on just as
well in my absence. School
Matters are not serious & can
be attended to in my absence
just as well. I wish for her
sake Cousin Mary could get
the place in Grammar School
but probably she can not.
Mr Parker has a proposed
Teacher for that place.
whom I think the Board
will want to employ.
Mrs or and Miss Wheelers
money paid on Slip Rents
is all right, and my Mem
shows it, but I had neglected
to copy it upon the Treas. Book
Our Du Quoin Mines affairs
is really prospering nowadays, more
perhaps than you are aware of —

Sir: Since I was here last Spring you know I have paid for that lot of land South of his, next to the Briggs lot $ 630.00

| | |
|---|---|
| H. E. Brooks note | 100.00 |
| Your Father Interest | 100.00 |
| Military | 100.00 |
| Travelling | 100.00 |
| Your Muff. Teeth, Dresses &c. | 100.00 |
| U. S. Bonds | 400.00 |
| | $ 1530 00 |

Beside usual current expenses.
And - will - have some money left and the prospect of more.
Walls Colliery started last Feb. with an income to me of $1.75 for the month. It has gained slowly and for November pays $9.00 Feb to Nov. Inclusive $ 56.50
The DuQuoin Mills Mine, one half of the Royalty from which belongs to me pays me about $ 20.00 for November. or $97.75 Jan to Nov.

Dearest Your letter Mailed the 5th Inst came to hand today, to my great joy. Brooks promised to lay that floor last week. Write me all about your Sewing Circle. Cousin Mary probably cannot get the Grammar School Place.

I am glad to hear that the Cradle is banished Afraid it made you trouble, hope you have got well over it. I wish Charley had gone to the Dentist when he was at Elyria.

If the Room is ceiled up all finished, floor laid &c. and the bedstead has not come send to "Waldeck & Sneares" to see why. Will you have to make bedding especially to fitt the odd shaped bedstead?

Please write often.

Sincerely &c

C Jane

Dr Lucas

Dec 1863

I believe I have not written about the weather here yet, which of course you always expect. Since I came till Tuesday 8th all the perfect winter weather of Southern Illinois, no clouds, mild & bright sunny, there can be no finer weather in Greece or Italy: sometimes just a little frost in the morning sometimes not. Just like the very finest Indian Summer weather in Ohio or East, except that there is a peculiar soft mildness of the air, instead of the kind of crispness east.

8th & 9th Cloudy & a little rain. But the very rain here seems if not dry, as least soft & mild, compared with the sharp chilly harsh cloudy weather elsewhere.

Some anxiety here now about the 6th Ill. Cavalry, in which Brad Skinker Capt. commands one Company from this place.

The Regiment is reported badly cut up at Lagrange the other day in a Guerrilla fight. But no particulars yet received.

It was Col. Loomis of DuQuoin Col of that Regiment, who was shot a few months ago by a drunken Major Harrod of Shawneetown, of the same Regmt.

Capt. Skinner came home with the body. Widow & 4 little girls here in DuQuoin.

Sincerely
Isaac

DuQuoin
Dec. 1863

Sabbath Dec. 13th 1863
Du Quoin Perry Co Illinois

I believe I have not written any thing about the weather lately. The first week I was here, it was most beautiful of beautiful Egyptian weather, with clear mild Autumn days, day after day alike.

Monday night 7th it clouded up at night and rained in the night. And it has not cleared off yet! there has been little rain till today, but constant mild warm cloudy weather. Very comfortable weather, here you know we do not have much mud — have dust instead — the streets are made of Coal slack. All sidewalks are of this material, which is perhaps as good as any gravel. But there is a blackness to it, and an imperceptible shade thereof will follow the feet on to the carpets &c.

This forenoon at the Presbyterian Church Rev. M. Stafford preached to about 15 persons. If it does not clear off I do not know what the audience will be this evening. It really rained very hard awhile this morning.

Du Quoin Dec 13/1863

I have only got two letters from you since I left home, How many I have written I can hardly tell. Yours were mailed the 5th & 8th. I hope to get another tomorrow.
How much longer I shall remain here I cannot tell. I mean to try to get home by Christmas but may not. There is much to attend to and I ought to spend more of my time here. But the fact is, especially of late years that I do sort of like to stay at home, certainly when my wife and children happen to be there.
Had not we better move out here Nettie? There is really a great need of "decent people" here. There is for a new R.R. Town a very fine proportion of such. But as every where else they need strengthening. The Mines bring in a great undercurrent of the very worst. They have got so strong here just now as to govern. I hope it will not continue. Liquor selling is regularly licensed, and prevails enormously

DuQuoin
Dec. 16 '63

DuQuoin Dec. 16 1863

My Dear

I must tell you of the Riot here yesterday. The DuQuoin Morning Journal Office was cleaned out by a party of Soldiers. I have been almost anticipating something of the kind ever since I have been here. Government trains of Soldiers you know are passing here almost every day. Last week I know a Cavalry Regiment from Indiana talked of it. Yesterday a fine battery of light Artillery, 10 cars of horses 6 cars of brass guns & carriages, 4 Cars of Baggage & 3 cars of Soldiers, happened to be switched out here

and waiting an hour or two for other trains.
Some resident I suppose told some of the Soldiers there was a Copperhead Newspaper published here. So in the absence of their officers, who were gone round to the bakery to look out for rations, a party of the Soldiers started for the Office. The building you know belongs to Mr Keyes, is on the same block with his house & upstairs Office, and next the Monk House.
The Soldier boys rushed in drove out or threw out the printers tipped over the forms, threw the type into "pi" and out the windows breaking glass sash and all, tipped over the stove of burning Coal onto the floor seized upon the half printed newspaper of the week & carried

off for distribution among their comrades.
The Keyes got round there in time to pick up the coal and save the building from burning up. So the damage to him, was only the windows &c. To the printer some two or three hundred dollars perhaps.
All well.
Hope you are so.
Colder weather
A little Snow

Truly
Isaac

Du Quoin
Dec. 15 1863

Du Quoin Perry Co Ill.
Tuesday Dec. 15 '63

My Dearest

Just came to hand your nice letter, mailed the 12th; and also one from your Father mailed the 9th.
I wish the Children did not have Colds so; but I do not know how to help it.
Does Charley Rich keep water in the Evaporating Pan in the furnace?
Do you keep abundant Ventilation in your Sleeping Rooms by night?
Do your Children be washed all over in Cold water every day? That makes the difference with me.

Do they get their feet wet in going out doors, and stay with them wet and cold long times?
I guess Charley Ricks had not better dry up the cow as long as she gives a good mess of milk and you want to use the milk; but he must try especially and not let her grow poor, for I shall want to kill her by and by. If it is cold & stormy the young cattle must be brought back from pasture.
One thing I forgot to dig my Chicory roots. If there is any pleasant weather Charley Ricks had better dig them perhaps and wash the roots.

The letter from you today
was the third one I have
got.
I am very well and com
fortable.
I expect now to get home
sometime next week.

Sincerely
Isaac.

Elyria Feb. 25th 1864
Thurs. 6 P.M.

Dearest

Children all nice & well. Charley, I guess has got over his trouble, though he claims that he cried once today because he was lonesome. I write this to advise you to remain till Saturday.

We do not want to see you out here before Saturday night if you can find any place to stay. So take plenty of time to see and hear every thing you want.

Dr. Dr. W.M. arrived home safely tonight

Do not be in a hurry, and do not get tired yourself. The Museum in the Court House is quite an attraction, but it takes near two hours to get through it in the crowd. The Paintings also in Court House is also good, though the collection is not yet Catalogued. Next week would be better time for most all the Show. Mechanic Hall will hardly be fairly open at all this week. However it is perhaps worth going through now, just to see a Machine that pegs a boot or shoe in about half a minute. makes the pegs too as it goes along. That Machine it is said has pegged two hundred thousand prs of boots.

Do not neglect to go and see the "Stereopticons" at the Cleveland Music Hall Bank St. just North of Weddell House next door to Angier House. Every day at 2 & 8 P.M.

They say Baby has not cried at all today. Do not worry about Mrs Rood's money or Mrs Wooster's Muff. I guess you will not lose yours

Especially
Isaac

Bane

Feb 25 1864

Dane
Feb. 25 1865
Galion

Ohio
Galion. Crawford Co.
Tues. P.M. Feb. 21 1865

Dearest

Here I am, behind time, and delayed here 12 or 14 hours.
Dull place— Mighty vexatious.
So instead of reaching DuQuoin tomorrow noon, it will be some time in the night — that is, if I do not get stopped again.
Take care of yourself and not get tired and do too much.
Great news this morning of Sherman's occupation of Charleston, which you hear before this reaches you. I am very sorry to come away from home and leave Eliah there — and it vexes me all the more to be detained here.
Any thing you want or need from Store

or any thing you can get Charles
to attend to. He will be there
most every day. And do not
be slow to call upon Josey for
to do any thing you want done.
You had better ask Charley
or Josey or both to come around
Sabbath morning and carry
those Question Books.
Miss Wheeler — Tittie — will dis
tribute the books Papers if you
send them to her.
If the Monthly papers — "Childs
Paper", or "Child at Home" should
come this week, better throw
them in the drawer and
let them wait till I get
home.
Please write to me. as
often as convenient — every day
if you can, if only half a page
but only this week, or not after
Sunday, Monday morning say.

I may get home before the End of next week.
I wish Eliab could wait till I get home.
If the Children are not well or any thing is the Matter Telegraph.
Take especial care of your self — you know you have no one ~~while~~ I am away to scold at you for Sewing or any thing.

Love &c.

J. V. Metcalf

Oh have you heard any thing of the new scheme, the Travellers Insurance?

At Every Depot this winter they sell Traveller's Insurance Policies. Life Insurance against all accidents in travelling for ten cents per day per $5000.00 Every body buys a policy as they buy their R.R. Tickets.

My insurance for two days how-ever did not save my being kept here 14 hours.

Recd
Feb 22 1865

Mattoon Illinois
Wed'ne. Feb. 22d 1865

Dearest Nettie

Here I am stopped again till to morrow morning.
The Rail Roads in this country seem to have left off trying to make any connections. Entirely overrun with Passengers & freight, more business by far than their rolling stock can do, they seem to have given up trying. I thought it was bad enough last year. It has grown no better very fast.
I left Galion Ohio at 2 A.M. very comfortable in Sleeping Car till Noon at Indianapolis. Since then Every Car crowded, not merely every seat, but all ~~the~~ the aisles between the seat all crowded full all the time.

Arrive here at Mattoon at 7 P.M. Train for the South passed here about 5 P.M. Next Train at 6 A.M. tomorrow. Worse than all that the Pleasure [illegible] Trains in back. Probably twice as many people in the house as there are beds for. However I always pick out somewhere. Pretty apt to get a chance if any one does. If I do not get stopped any where else I shall get to Du Quoin tomorrow noon 24 hours behind time.

I have thought for a year or two that there were a great many people out west; but I never realized it I think quite so fully as today.

I write to you from Galion where I made my first detention yesterday of nearly 14 hours. And have nothing particular to write tonight, only to tell you of my delays. And to request you to take good care of my wife & children.

If Ellick had come with me I guess he might have thought the first a hard road to travel.

I do not like it very well to come away and leave home. I hope you will write to me frequently — every day — this week. I shall be anxious to hear how the children get along &c. &c.

Affectionately yours

G. W. McNeely

KEYES & METCALF'S COAL Du Quoin, Ill.

OFFICE, Du Quoin Coal Mining Company,

Du Quoin, Ill., Feb. 23 1865

My Dearest

Arrived here in good order and condition about one o'clock this afternoon, seven hours from Mattoon, and just twenty four hours longer from home than I expected: waiting thirteen hours at Galion, Ohio, and eleven hours at Mattoon Ill.

Mr Keyes not in town today. He lives you know five or six miles out of town nowadays. You remember he and Mr Mead wrote about it last summer. He is usually here every day, but yesterday & today could not get here by reason of high water, from a great rain Tuesday night. The great reason for his moving out of town as far as I can learn was to get Chetty away. He was getting wild and rude beyond control they say. Bad enough when I was here last, and grew worse considerably. After he was brought home drunk once or twice, and a great flogging

Duane Feb. 23 1864

flogging (perhaps the first he ever had) did not do any good, he thought best to get him away out of the village as soon as possible, I guess. So he lives off there five or six miles from here, four or five from the Old Town, and I do not know but he will build up another village there — of refuges and freedmen.

General time of health here, every body well and hearty. Milford Hinkley moved his family up here, bought out Col Campbell. Our Frank Campbell, used to run our Mines you know. And Col. Campbell rents his place at old Town. Milford Hinkley of course makes money. and so do the Smiths. Brad Skinner is still in the Army. his three years is out some time since, but they hold him in service three years from date of his Commission as Captain of Cavalry.

Mrs Root I have not seen but understand that she is quite smart and healthy.

I am anxious to hear how you all are at home

Du Quoin Perry Co. Illinois
Saturday eve. Feb. 25 1865

My Dearest Nettie

I was quite disappointed to day at not receiving a letter from you. I hoped a little yesterday. Today I quite relied upon it but it did not come.
Well I will hope for better luck Monday, and console myself by thinking that if any thing had been the matter of yourself or children you would have written early enough so I could have received it this week.
I have been pretty busy here in Office ever since I came here, and expect to be while I stay, could be if I had several times as long to stay.

Mr Keyes comes up every day no matter what the weather is. Now a days it is really quite an undertaking 5 or 6 Miles of Illinois Mud roads. Two Creeks to cross — by fording. Nearly swimming they are too now. One or two days this week they were so. Last night was another great rain. Mr Keyes came up this morning before Six Mile Creek got up. To night it is undoubtedly swimming deep, but he went back just at night saying he could turn his horse out on this side and there was a big tree fallen high across the Stream that he could cross on.
Mr Keyes' health appears very good, he has had no Cold or Cough all winter, and I think looks stronger than I ever saw him.
He eats but twice a day ever nowadays. Comes up here in the Morning, and eats nothing till he gets home at night.
I hardly know whether I shall get down there or not. I have not much time to spare, certainly.

Done Feb 25/65

This Evening I called around and had a long talk with Aunt Sally, - Mrs Root.
She is very well this winter, apparently better than usual for some years, and ~~apparently~~ just as happy as ever she was.
It was enough to do any one - a Christian atleast, good, to hear her talk of Anna, and of her death.
She did not mourn at Anna's death, rather rejoiced - could have shouted with joy when she died, or as she lay dead in the house. Her very coffin, and her grave were a joy and a pleasure to her. She was a joy and a pleasure to her while she lived, and she had been ever since.
By the way, some one ought to write Aunt Sally's life. You know she was, with her husband, first pioneer in all this region. He came out her to establish a ferry on Muddy River, on the Old great Shawnetown & Kaskaskia Trail. That was in 1819. There was no St Louis then you know hardly. The Old French town of Kaskaskia was the end of the world in this direction as it were. and its outlet was through here to the Ohio River at Shawneetown. The nearest white family or person was 12 Miles either way to the ferries on the next rivers.
She said last night she had lived night after night by the week entirely alone, no other human being within twelve Miles; and why should she be afraid to stay alone in her house now with kind neighbors within call on either side. She had no patience nowadays with folks that complained of hardships and disagreeables of living in this country.

I mean to get home Friday or Saturday next though I expect I shall have to go by way of Chicago which will take a little longer.
I hope to get letter from you Monday.

Sincerely Isaac

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To Mrs J. S. Metcalf — June 24th 1865

Elyria — By Telegraph from Cleveland 24th 1865

We shall be out in the morning inform Mrs Tifliff

J. S. Metcalf

10 H. 40 PM

Telegram
fm Cleveland
April 24 1865

| | |
|---|---|
| 52 | 66.90 |
| 40 | 68.90 |
| 16 | 135.80 |
| 108 | 87.85 |
| 5/8.40 | 12.00 |
| 1.70 | 235.65 |
| 10.10 | |
| 11.80 | |

KEYES & METCALF'S
COAL
Du Quoin, Ill.

OFFICE,
Du Quoin Coal Mining Company,

Du Quoin, Ill., Feb. 7 1866

My Dearest

I arrived here in good health & condition last
night, or rather this morning between two and
three; had a tolerable nights rest before nine o
clock, and ready for business. Mr Keyes is
away at St Louis, but will be back in a day
or two. Things are going on about as usual
here. Continued growth & improvement of course
more & more brick buildings &c. Keyes still lives
down in the woods. & Mrs Keyes they say has not
been up to town for months. The propose to build
a great School house here this season, cost
twice as much probably as our Elyria School House
did, though every thing costs twice as much now as
then. Make taxes amount to something. Taxes have
been very light heretofore here. For two years
to come the School House tax alone in this burgh will
be much more than all our tax in Elyria.

I hope you wrote to me yesterday & day before, and

again today for I am of course anxious to hear all about the Children and all. Can but feel anxious about the Children till after time for baby & Anna to have Measles if they have been exposed. I think I shall be home next week. Perhaps you had better not write to me after this reaches you, without it reaches you soon or rapidly.

I think now I shall return via Chicago.

If any thing happens to trouble you you can telegraph. Sincerely

Isaac S.

Lois a. J. Feb 11 / Du Quoin '66

KEYES & METCALF'S COAL Du Quoin, Ill.

OFFICE, Du Quoin Coal Mining Company,

Du Quoin, Ill., Feb 11 1866

Nettie Dearest

Your letter of Monday last came safe to hand Saturday. Written the day I left, mailed the next Morning. I stopped one day on the way, and got here Wednesday morning at 2 A.M. before light. the letter Saturday Morning at 8 A.M. Such are Uncle Sam's Mails. I am doing well here. getting along well that is. Mr Keyes got home Friday P.M. I mean to get home by next Saturday but cannot tell for certain. Heard a Temperance Sermon this forenoon, this afternoon have been to S. S. Saw B. G. Roots today. Mrs Roots you know died a year ago or more. He had married again within a few weeks. You cannot guess who. I would wait and let you guess, if I were not afraid it would hurt you.

You remember Miss Paine & Miss Reynolds. Miss Reynolds by the way has just come back to the Old Town Seminary, which drags on a very slight and precarious existence.

Miss Reynolds you remember married
a venerable old gentleman named
Saunders. Widow Saunders has lately
married B. G. Roots.

Philander Keep is at (Nevada) Pikes' Peak
Logan Holt is an Army Commissary
in Miss. perhaps.

Dined today at Milford Hinkley's: They
live in very fine style in the house
Colonel Campbell built.

Supper Bell Sincerely

J. V. Metcalf

Indianapolis Ind.

Feb. 6 12 M.

I intended Dearest Nettie to write you on yesterday but did not get time. Wrote to Charles instead. I took tea at N. E. Brooks', and left Cleveland by night train at 9.30 P.M. Sleeping Car at Galion about 2 A.M. Slept till about 10 this forenoon. Just arrived here near two hours behind time. Go on in half an hour. Hope you are all doing well. Have the boys take good care of Cow & pig.

And! Write to me.

Expect to get to DuQuoin before tomorrow morning, if not delayed too long at Mattoon.

Isaac

# METROPOLITAN THEATRE

CORNER OF WASHINGTON AND TENNESSEE STREETS.

MANAGER, . . . . MR. W. H. RILEY
STAGE DIRECTOR, . . . . MR. L. B. SHARPE.

## SCALE OF PRICES.

| | |
|---|---|
| PRIVATE BOXES, (for six people) | $5.00 |
| ORCHESTRA SEATS | 75 CENTS |
| PARQUETTE AND RESERVED SEATS | 75 CENTS |
| DRESS CIRCLE | 50 CENTS |
| GALLERY AND FAMILY CIRCLE | 25 CENTS |
| CHILDREN IN ARMS | $15.00 |

Box Office open from 10 o'clock A. M., till 1 o'clock P. M.
Reserved Seats not retained after the First Act.

**NOTICE--CHANGE OF TIME.**

Doors open at 7 o'clock. Overture begins at 1-4 to 8 o'clock precisely

**PARTICULAR NOTICE.—IMPROPER CHARACTERS** will not be admitted under any circumstances. Any persons bringing such will positively be expelled.

The Theatre Perfectly Warm and Comfortable!

ENTHUSIASTIC RECEPTION OF THE GREAT ARTISTE,

## MADAME

# CELESTE!

Hailed with Acclamations of Applause. Tears and Heartfelt Delight nightly reward the intellectual rendition of this Celebrated Artiste, in her Original Character of

# RUDIGA!

## THE SORCERESS.

LAST NIGHT, POSITIVELY, OF THE

# WOMAN IN RED!

As it must give way to other novelties.

SECOND APPEARANCE OF

# Miss Frances Burnam!

**A Pupil of Madame Celeste.**

MISS CUSHMAN AS MARGUERITE!

# Tuesday Evening, Feb. 6th, 1866

LAST TIME, POSITIVELY, OF
The Celebrated Drama, in a Prologue and Three Acts, as performed

Illinois Central Rail Road Co.
DIVISION SUPERINTENDENT'S OFFICE.
Centralia, Feb. 14 1866

Dearest Nettie

When shall I get home? Don't know, I guess. Present appearances are against it decidedly. I tried to leave Du Quoin this morning at 6 A.M. But on account of a Freight train off the track toward Cairo, the train did not come till 4 P.M. When I came along as far as here. Meanwhile it had turned excessively cold. No snow at all at Du Quoin, and not freezing any till morning. Here all frozen up, and from here to Chicago, all trains snow ed up and frozen up, very little prospect of any trains over the road tomorrow or perhaps for longer. I do not know but I shall decide to go back to Du Quoin tomorrow and stay over Sabbath

If I do go back I will Mail this so that you may know (if this gets through via Cincinnati) what has become of me. I have contracted to go via Chicago

Respectfully
And much more too

J. D. Metcalf

Isaac St Louis
May 16
1866

EVERETT HOUSE ST. LOUIS MO.

Fourth Street

bet. Olive & Locust

I. B. GILDERSLEVE, PROPRIETOR.

St. Louis May 16 1866

Dearest

Arrived here in good order
this afternoon 30 hours from home.
Strawberries plenty as ever you
saw & other things in proportion
Comfortable quarters assigned
me ~~here~~ at 123 Chouteau Av.
Please write to me, directing
to that place 123 Chouteau Av.
I shall very likely stay two weeks.
I am a little anxious to hear
from Little Anna. & the rest

Absolutely

J. S. N.

Recd. St Louis
May 19. 1866

St Louis May 17

Dearest

I wrote a note to you yester-
day, stating merely the fact of my
arrival here &c.

I got pleasant acquaintance of num-
erous "Commissioners", both Old &
New School on the way here; among
the rest the Rev Mr Richards whom
you heard preach last Sabbath
and an ancient Elder of his Church
in Delaware Co. N.Y. who probably
never was out of his ancestral
"neck of woods" before. I notice
he sticks close to Mr Richards' coat
tail. I find here Rev. Mr Post
formerly of Dickinson of whom you
have heard me speak. the Dickinson
Minister who went into the army, and
who now is a Missionary on the

Iron Mountain R.R., down which I talk of making an excursion & see our R. G. [illegible] Caleb Elgin is now superintendent of a Lead Mine 50 miles from St Louis.
Mr Post you know lost his wife at Du Quoin & married again that little Ross Girl whom you doubtless remember went to school there, perhaps was in your S.S. Class, Sister of Ellen Hall's husband.
Old Father Gibson is here too, (whom you doubtless remember) as large as life, and with the same old "Jolly Red Nose". Also Dr Storer of Carbondale which you do not remember. And by the way also Old Dr Beman formerly of Troy N.Y., who now you know lives at Carbondale, south of Du Quoin of late yrs.
I have a very good boarding place at a Mr Morse's 123 Chouteau Av.

There has been no ~~[illegible]~~ warm weather since
we came hither. Indeed there are bitter
complaints of the cold. But the season
is very much in advance of Northern Ohio
this of course. Vegetation here now is
that of the last of June almost [illegible]
as in Ohio. We had on dinner table
asparagus, beets, onions, radishes, head
lettuce, and desert of abundant straw
berries. Gardens here are about
in the condition of ours in Ohio
a full month later.
I am anxious to hear how you
are getting along. how the boys do &c.
I ought to have [illegible] you [illegible]
thing about writing before I left
and I am afraid you will not
think of it, or will not write till
you hear from me which will
make it some time before I shall
hear any thing from you —

Ten or fifteen years ago, when I used to be in St Louis, it was [illegible] and distinctly a Southern City; every thing had the distinct Southern look with perhaps an [illegible] dust of northern bustle. But now the City is so distinctively North in almost every aspect. The Draymen and teamsters who used to sit on their horses, now get on their Drays &c. And other things in proportion especially as to the Colored folks &c. And the City too is improving [illegible] almost or quite equal to Chicago. It is surprising the change

about a mile nearly, very pleasant walk from Church. Excellent Methodist People, Northern & Union, very would not take Old School for fear they might not be union.

Assembly opened today by opening with a most excellent sermon from Rev Dr Jas. B. Shaw of Rochester N.Y. "O Thou that hearest Prayer." The Assembly is a most solemn & dignified body at least it moves as slow as mule power. A.M. simply heard the sermon. P.M. Elected a Moderator, and talked for two hours over sundry unimportant points of order & procedure

(Moderator Elect is the very
Rev Dr Hopkins of Auburn
Theol Sem. Tall & dig-
nified, but evidently not know-
ing very well how to preside
over so excessively autonomous
a body as a collection of
ministers, I presume there
are lots of laymen here who
could preside over a body of
business men and do more
business in two days than this
will do in two weeks). I know
T. P. Handy of Cleveland who is
here with John Merrill, cordially.
Well I will write frequently,
Write to me. Write
Care of Gen. As. P. S. St Louis

Isaac St Louis
May 21. 1866

1866

St Louis May 21st

Dearest

I wrote to you I believe every day last week; and am getting anxious to hear from you, and know how the Children & all get along in my absence. Saturday night was the "Elder's Meeting". It was a little curious to see how anxious how many were have their own voice heard in relation to their experience in ruling the church. So they adjourned to try it again some other evening.

Yesterday morning I visited two Sabbath Schools, and heard Rev Dr McCosh, an old Scotch Irishman, greatly distinguished as an author theological & metaphysical. In the afternoon I went to the celebrated St Louis "South Mission S.S."; which was started and superintended by Gen Fisk as long as he staid in St Louis. The School now number 1700, or more. It is deci

decidedly an institution of itself. Buil
ding built on purpose for it, and ev
erything fitted for it.
In the evening I went to Dr Post's
Church, — the Congregational Church, and
heard Dr Hatfield of NewYork.
The great interest here as all over the
Country attaches to the Old School As
sembly. They have had now about
all the time so far a great discussion
of National interests, as to what shall be
done with certain Secessionist Ken
tuckians upheld by certain Missourians
of the same stripe who have refused to
submit to the anti slavery & patriotic de
liverance of the previous Gen. Assembly.
The matter is not yet decided, and
may occupy all this week for aught
I know. If the Old School should finally
purge itself of this Southern it would I
suppose remove the great obstacle to what
many of both sides are figuring for; a
Re-Union of the N. S. & O. S.

Isaac St Louis

Monday May 21 66

Dearest Mattie

I have to keep writing not yet hearing from you. To day in our Assembly has been the reception & speech of Dr Harper a representative of the United Presbyterians. The reception &c of Dr McCosh the great Scotch Irish Presbyterian. The report of a Committee on Foreign Missions with a Speech from Secy. Wood of Am Board And a report of Committee on Church Extension with a new plan of procedure, and a great and greatly mixed up discussion thereon.

I went into the Old School Assembly a little while today. There is where the great the National interest is nowadays. There were crowds of rebel sympathizers there today, and some great speaking which I must tell you of sometime

Besides I went to a Photograph Saloon A leading Photographer of the City request the members of Assembly to sit each for their picture; sit separately & then he will group them in a great picture I reckon.

Offers to fix up a dozen Cartes de visite for each gratis to pay for the trouble of sitting

Thursday 24 the whole assembly are invited to visit the Iron Mountain 7 a.m. to 9 P.M. The grand trip by rail

Theological, Sabbath School and General

BOOK STORE,

**No. 9 South Fifth Street,**

*St. Louis,* ............ *186*

..............................

*Dear Sir:*

*During your stay in the city, you are very respectfully invited to make my Store your head=quarters for writing Letters, or obtaining any information you desire.*

*Very respectfully,*

**J. W. McINTYRE.**

1866
St Louis May 26

May 22^d 1866.
St Louis, Mo.

Very Dearest

Your letter the first of the ~~17th~~ 16th came to hand this morning to my great joy. I shall hope now to hear from you very often. I calculate to write mostly every day myself. I have so far except the Sabbath when I did not get time.

In the Old School Assembly they have been having a great time. That Assembly you know last year delivered itself very decidedly against Rebels & rebel sympathisers and required the Churches to do so. The Presbytery of Louisville repelled & protested very contumaciously under the lead of of the Old Politician Sam Wickliffe, & Rev Stuart Robinson whose health has compelled him to live in Canada for some years. Here at the Meeting of Gen Ass. O. S. appeared the said Stuart Robin the head & horn of the offending as Delegate

from Louisville. The Northern men at once proposed that they have no right to vote as members of the Assembly till the As. took action upon them and their Presbytery. The Northern Men elected Dr Stanton of Chillicothe (Brother of Secy. of War Stanton) Moderator. -

~~Today~~ Saturday they had a great Speech by Dr Thomas of Ohio, against the Kentuckyians. ~~Sat~~ ~~today~~ Monday a great Speech exceeding elegant eloquent & elaborate by Rev Dr Boardman of Philadelphia, which I heard myself. ~~For~~ in their favor. And today Tuesday I expect it has been magnificently replied to by Hon Sam. Galloway of Ohio. I would have given something to hear it. Galloway you remember was President of our last Ohio State S. S. Convention, He is now about the best Stump Speaker in the State, and most inimitably comic as well as pathetic upon occasion. I think he had a fair chance to show himself in reply to Dr Boardman.

Especially
Isaac

I do not know as I shall get any letters from you — how I want to! — but I shall keep writing to you — every day like enough till I do get letters from you.
This is Friday 18th 6 P.M. Quite a warm day too it has been. and the first since leaving home. It has been quite cool weather until today. Our northern men begin to sigh and complain of the heat. I am disposed to laugh at them and tell them to wait a few days. It will probably grow warmer & warmer every day, perhaps for a week.
I begin to foresee that I am going to get dreadfully tired of this high & mighty Gen Assembly. It bids fair to be shockingly dull. I could hardly believe what I heard a commissioner saying on the way here that Meetings of the General Assembly were more tiresome than those of Synods & Presbyteries, which I supposed were the very acme of dullness. But I do not know but I may find it so to my cost.
In the first place the Moderator appoints Standing Committees on a great variety of Subjects Committees of 10 or 15 each — so that every Commissioner may have a place on one or two.
Then there are lots of Permanent committees which make long reports to the Gen. Assembly, wh take up hours in the reading, these reports being read are referred to Standing Committees, wh make other reports on those reports &c. &c.

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*Very respectfully,*

J. W. McINTYRE.

The Battle of Pilot Knob was on this wise
Just before the Presdtl. Election — Sept. 1864 —
The Rebels
invaded Missouri, the mightiest raid
ever started, it is supposed 20.000. Cavalry
or even more. Under Gen Sterling Price
formerly Gov: of this State. In the Pilot Knob
Gap, a beautiful little Plain between Pilot
Knob & Shepherd Mountain, he found a
a little octagonal earthern fort, just about
big enough to hold its little garrison of 600
men under Gen Tom Ewing of Ohio, but well
supplied with artillery & ammunition.
The Rebels tried all day long to carry the little
Fort by assault, losing it is affirmed four
fold the whole No of the besieged. In the
night Ewing finding Price had got
a large force around him, between
him & St Louis and cutting him off,
quietly evacuated, withdrawing his
little force, and escaping by a little
mountain gap to the North side of Shepherd
Mountain, right away from St Louis, & with
a race for life succeeded in getting away
and to the other or S.W. Pacific R.Rd.
Price destroyed the Iron Mountain RRd being
all the bridges, but did not come into St Louis
as it is thought he might, but went off thro
the central part of the State. got whipped

variously and finally run off out of the State taking with him it is said 60.000. horses!
At that Election the State of Missouri voted for Abraham Lincoln.

Theological, Sabbath School and General

BOOK STORE,

No. 9 South Fifth Street,

St. Louis. 186

Very Assuredly Isaac

Dear Sir:

During your stay in the city, you are very respectfully invited to make my Store your head-quarters for writing Letters, or obtaining any information you desire.

Very respectfully,

J. W. McINTYRE.

Most respectively

J. V. Thereaty

Thurs. May 24th 1866 St Louis, MO.

Very Dearest

Have just returned from the Grand Excursion to the Iron Mountain and Pilot Knob. Have just got and read your letter of the 21st I am exceeding sorry about Mrs Farber coming and going without you. I thought at first I would start right off tomorrow morning for home direct; but upon reflection concluded it w'd be too late at that perhaps, besides that I ought to go to DuQuoin However perhaps it will not make much difference, we will find some one going East to accompany you. I will stay my time out, and come home at my leisure. You get all ready so as to start any time you get a good chance; Then you can start whenever there is a chance, and take your time. I want you sh'd have a good long summer to rest, recruit, and get fat & strong lay in a stock of health & strength as they tell about, and as I am doing nowadays. Not worry and tire yourself visiting about at a thousand and one places all summer; but go there to George's, where you can have the whole benefit of the bracing sea air and just take your time for it, all summer. And I will try and arrange to come after you.

A great trip today; Special train, 6 best cars on the R.R. Gen Assembly 200 and about 100 citizens of St Louis. I wished greatly you were along (as the western folks say) many times, 87 Miles, start at 7 A.M. Pilot Knob at 10. A great Iron Furnace by arrangmt just ready for a blast — (the running out of the melted Iron) which is quite a sight for one who has not seen it; and then the Climb up the Mountain which is just a big pile of solid Iron about 600 ft. high; upon the ragged tops of which the picturesquely grouped party first sang Old America, then listened to sundry speeches of Welcome, and glorification, and descriptions of surroundings, and of the battle ground in the plain below; then a prayer from the grand old Scotchman Dr McCosh, singing, &c. Then down the Mountain Pic Nic Dinner; and I guess there was food enough for a regiment of a thousand men. Visit the battle field & back to St Louis by 6 P.M.

The N. S. Assembly is expected to adjourn on Monday next I may possibly go to DuQuoin on Saturday, probably not however till Monday. I do not mean to stay there more than a day other

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J. C. M. St Louis May 26 '66

St Louis Mo.
May 26 1866

Dearest

I believe I have written to you about our excursion to the Iron Mountain. To day have been out, this afternoon while Assembly has to adjourn for the Sexton to prepare the Church for the Sabbath, to the celebrated Botanical Gardens of Henry Shaw. About the finest gardens, hot houses & grounds generally that I ever saw, got up, maintained, and thrown open to the public by a single wealthy man of the City. It is the same man that was a party to a celebrated "Breach of Promise" case a year or two ago. A Miss Carstang recovered of him $100.000.00 for breach of promise. But Shaw got a new trial and got rid of the whole, verdict in his favor.

I have written a long letter all about these great ecclesiastical proceedings &c. &c. to the respected and very reverend John N. Putnam. of Yarmouth, Maine.

I calculate now upon going over to Du Quoin Monday night or Tuesday morning, and get home the last of the week sometime.

The great event of the day today is the Appointment of a great Joint Committee of 9 ministers and 6 Elders from each Gen. Assembly to Confer upon a Union of the two great denominations. So I suppose it may be considered an accepted fact that the reunion is to be though it may take a year or two to arrange and perfect the details.

Well I hope to get home sometime and will be glad thereof.

Most absolutely Respectfully

J. C. Metcalf

Isaac.
St Louis May 26
1866

St Louis Missouri
Sat. Morn. May 26 '66.

My Nettie

I have got pretty much tired out of this Assembly business. I did some think of deserting today or last night and going over to DuQuoin to spend the Sabbath. But now guess I shall stick it out till monday, or whenever the Assembly shall adjourn.

I got no letter from you since the Trio, but on yesterday one from Elisha to say that he was not going to be at Portsmouth at present. I did some think if he were there of calling upon him on my way home. So I shall just run over to DuQuoin, stay a few days and calculate to get home in course of the week. Business of the Gen Assembly drags its slow length along.

Old School still quarrel briskly over the Kentucky folks.

Weather warm and dry.

Sincerely
Isaac

Theological, Sabbath School and General

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No. 9 South Fifth Street,

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.......................................

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*Very respectfully,*

J. W. McINTYRE.

West House

Sandusky June 11. 8 P. M.

All Right

Dearest

I ordered a trunk sent up to you tomorrow. If it should not suit you, you can send it back, and get a better one somewhere else. I guess it is a good stout one ~~that~~ will bear the jacket, if it is big enough &c.

Have made the arrangement for Anna & Maria at Mrs Barney's all right. Miss Yates & W. more doubtfull. but will see again

The Boys will be good and keep their Mother. Have not &c.

Sincerely

Isaac

Isaac June 20th 1866

Wed. Eve. June 20th

"If I am bereaved, I am bereaved", the Patriarch said when two of his family were away. 'Doubly bereaved' I suppose that means. His bereavement was the lack of two out of twelve, or sixteen, or 70 rather, was it not? Now mine is of 2 out of 6. Why it is almost equal to the "one little ewe lamb" of Nathan the Prophet in comparison.

However I guess we had better not worry and I guess you need not for us.

Great Dutch Assault & Battery case in my office all day, has kept me busy.

Eliab got home last night safe and well.

John Firin returned in good order and reported you fairly started in comfortable trim from Cleveland.

Boys have done very well; Evidently tried to be good.
Little Folks done well also; Anna slight signs of Lonesomeness without or for the lack of Nina: but both happy and good.

Boys came down between 6 & 7 and went into the fair. Quite a lot of folks, many nice things. &c, &c.
About the best thing however was Little Funny Fig leaf seated in an immense shoe "with so many children she didn't know &c."

Very many inquiries for Mrs Metcalf.
Rev L. A. Wilbur informed me that he expected to be absent 2 Sabbaths to come, going on Friday to Crawfordsville to Commencement of the College.

Especially
Isaac

Isaac Thurs. Eve, June 21, 1866.
June 21 1866

Dearest Nettie

I have just got [illegible] from the "Torpedo".

To begin there was a heavy shower between 6 & 7. It stopped raining and looked bright in the west. 8½ after the children were all abed & asleep I thought I would go down and see what there was.

In spite of the rain, the Hall was pretty as full as comfortable in a warm evening.

On one side, George & Martha Washington in the person of Mr & Mrs Gates, dressed to perfection, and really looking it very well, Nelson & Anna Mills as Old Quaker and daughter, and &c &c with black servants as "Continental Tea Party".

On the Stage alternate Tableaux & [illegible]sic. Scenes from Ivanhoe. [illegible]a Moody & Mrs Bronson taking [illegible] [illegible]cca & Rowena, & Kagg as Athel[illegible] [illegible]es from Hiawatha. Tilly Ha[illegible] [illegible]nehaha & Dr Cushing as Hia[illegible] &c.

Singing greatly admired.
Northrop, T. E. Perkins the Composer. S. S. man
&c. and the two Gates girls for Quartett, with
Miss Hollbrook to play. Solos, by Perkins,
Nellie Vaughan of Cleveland & Lizzy Gates.
&c. &c. &c. &c.

But Enormous rain. Thunder and
lightning most excessive and severe.
and deluges of Rain almost.
I waded home in it about ten, without
waiting to see the last part of the show,
thinking Eliza & the Children might be
frightened. How all those women
and Children are going to get home
I do not know. It seems to rain harder
and harder this hour past.
Children very good. John wants to go
to the gate to look for Mama some.
[illegible] went down to Mrs Curtis' [illegible]
Bundle, Bill $4.00. Carr[illegible]
another bundle
you are nicely sleeping in [illegible]
[illegible] tired, [illegible] anxious to hear[illegible]
TLG

Elyria, Lorain Co. O[illegible]
Sat. Eve. June 23, 18[illegible]

My Dearest Wife

Your letter of Thursday eve came to hand to-night to our great satisfaction. I had heard from you before, [illegible] bringing a letter this forenoon written Wednesday, telling of your safe passage there, and of May's being sick. I am suspicious that it was occasioned merely by riding backwards in the car. I ought to have thought of it when you got in the car. Perhaps simply the riding backwards from here to Cleveland might have disturbed her stomach, and she did not recover it all day; while if she had sat right she might not have been affected. I am afraid you were too tired and ought to have stayed in Cleveland a day. Was quite anxious to hear of your safe arrival at [illegible]. I mailed a letter Thursday morning and another Friday morning, and hope you have got the first one brought, but probably you will not until Monday. Wish I could look in at the Parsonage and see you this evening. You need not have been a bit scared at May's being sick in the night. She probably slept all the better for the sickness, and it will not harm her.

[illegible] you of the "Polled", [illegible]. I have not yet heard the [illegible]. But it was a frightful storm that [illegible] about the greatest storm, thunderstorm [illegible] ever known here. And tonight is another one [illegible] it. [illegible] not have [illegible] you.

[illegible] and be liked [illegible]

"[illegible]ment" [illegible] College [illegible]

[illegible], is in your university, and whose [illegible]

[illegible]

[illegible] here today, resulted in the choice by quite a majority of [illegible]. Great Democratic victory!

[illegible] leaders [illegible]

[illegible] from 11 to 2 o'clock. Not a word of [illegible], no demonstration of ordinary light vote [illegible] 1, when about 90 [illegible] of the Democratic party began to come in and [illegible], Bill Whalen, Jim Hogan, Pat [illegible], and all. Decent men mainly [illegible] their dinners, and it was too late, (polls necessarily closing at 2) to make a rally.

[illegible] quite a relief to me. I did not feel at liberty to [illegible] to serve, while it is a tax any one man will rejoice to be rid of, and to be defeated in that way is really more of an honor than [illegible] by an ordinary light vote. [illegible] was pleased [illegible] [illegible] began to come in, [illegible] in the Court house, and came in and [illegible] right saying, "Why I wanted to vote against [illegible] in [illegible] question, but I certainly can't today."

[illegible] may put your mind [illegible] about [illegible] women. [illegible] as nicely as [illegible]. Little [illegible] is as happy as a bird all day long, occasionally wants [illegible] some one out to the gate to see if "Mamma" is coming! [illegible]. He is [illegible] good [illegible]

[illegible] this morning, [illegible]

[illegible]

[illegible]

[illegible]

[illegible] from H. C. J." [illegible]

We have plenty of strawberries and green peas nowadays.

[illegible] very frequently [illegible]

[illegible]

[illegible] not [illegible] in the [illegible]
[illegible] getting along first rate, [illegible]
[illegible]. The only trouble I have experienced [illegible]
[illegible]
[illegible]. [illegible]
[illegible] to put her off.
[illegible] is not [illegible] night.
[illegible]
[illegible]

Isaac
June 27
1866

Elyria, June 27, 1866

Dearest

Your letter, the first from Yarmouth, written Sunday perhaps, has just come to hand tonight, to our great joy. It was anxiously expected yesterday, to say nothing of the day before. I expect you were pretty thoroughly tired out when you got there. I am every day anxious to hear how you are getting along, you and May both, how your health and strength improve and increase.

I do not think you had better try to go to Dunbarton or any where else to visit till you get a little stronger and smarter so as not to get tired out with a day's journey.

Just get rested, strong & healthy, for the first thing. And be under no sort of uneasiness about us or any

thing here. Every thing goes on like Clock work. I judge that Eliza manages the work first rate. Every thing seems to be done first rate. The Boys are very good about helping her to take care of John. Little Anna is good as pie all the time; keeps entirely still while John has a long sleep every forenoon. Never seems to cry, except when she thinks that John abuses her, which is certainly the case sometimes. John is happy as bird all day long, and really seems nowadays to be "taking to" his father considerable, besides thinking considerable of his brother Wilder, & Charley too. He sleeps very well nights, and so does Anna.
He tumbled out of bed once in the night, and once I caught him in the foot after he fell off before he struck the floor! Moreover

he fell off the Veranday once, while trying to show Anna where his lit- tle Ball had fallen. I think that covers the Chapter of Accidents. None of them serious.

I ~~am afraid~~ dont believe you ~~do not~~ get so many Strawberries yet as we do. I get two full Strawberry Seasons this year. We have Lots, and great Lots of peas also.

I do not know as there is any news to write. The Festival Receipts were $660.00; Net about $550.00, so they say.

I paid $2.50 for your Doll. And $5.00 for Sundries, principally Ice Cream for School Marms, and Old Women who would not get it without, and the Children's things - Candy, Cakes &c.

You had got my first letter when
You wrote. I ~~sent~~ mailed one Thurs 21
one Friday 22 and one Monday 25; This
will go Thurs. 28th I intend.

I hope you will write very frequently.

I wrote you of Eliab's ride to the Lake on
Sat. 23d. Eliab has been most sick
since he got home part of the time
Yesterday Tues. 26th they had company
Dr. Fowkes, and the H. & H. D. Halls. I was
invited, but did not proceed.

Great Circus and attendant crowds
in Elyria on Monday 25th. Another
one next week.

I am much obliged to my dear
little girl Mary, for her letter and
will write to her specially soon.

Sincerely

Isaac

Very warm weather
here for some days
until today. John's
broken out with heat
some. but does not mind.

Isaac July 1 1866

July 1st 1866

[illegible]

Very Dear [illegible]

We were largely disappointed not to get a letter [illegible] from you by Saturday night. Have received but [illegible] from you, one written from Boston and [illegible] [illegible] I have written four times before this [illegible]. [illegible] calculated not to write again until we [illegible] from you [illegible], but cannot quite resist [illegible] [illegible] tonight. Preaching today by the [illegible] [illegible] (I think the name is) quite a young man, from [illegible] N.J. who married his wife in this county, and probably may be considered a candidate. Appears to be very much liked as a preacher.

Great singing today. Lizzy & Lottie Spiers in the Choir with Mrs Davy & Mrs Briggs. Also Prof Perkins the [illegible] publisher & singing book manufacturer. He may be an especial admirer of Miss Spiers. Emma [illegible] got home [illegible] as straight as she used to be expected. [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] and a very lovely looking lady she is. [illegible] still quite sick in bed.

Little John, the small darling, was sick and almost frightened us this morning early. Wilder was drawing him about the garden in carriage yesterday supper time or just before. Wilder stopped at a currant bush to eat; the carriage & John happened to be under another currant bush, wherefrom the Don John did help himself additionally. But he got rid of the trash and seems as bright and well as ever this P.M.

It is greatly hoped that you will write regularly at least, and we will try to do the same.

Especially,
Isaac

Isaac Jul 2, 1866

Monday P.M. July 2d 1866.

Dearest

Yours letter of the 28th & 29th ult. I have just got hold of. The letter I wrote to you yesterday forgot to go to the Post Office this morning, on account of my morning nap. So I will write a bit more and enclose therewith. So you were at Butts last week. I am glad to saw those you knew there. I suppose I would know a good many of the older clergy of the state even yet.

You do not write any thing about your state of health. I am hoping that the sea air, exercise and riding in the out doors, and freedom from care will make you grow strong and fat. How does May gain in flesh and color in her cheeks?

Do you want to come home in Aug, Sept. or Oct.?

This forenoon, worked pretty busily in the garden with the boys in company, Little John & Anna also on hand running about or sitting in little Carriage.
After dinner, I came down town leaving Boys taking care of Children while Eliza finishes washing.
Eliab has been most sick with Diarhea since you went away, but says now he is pretty well.
All the rest of folks are well as usual.

Sincerely

Isaac

Wed Eve. July 4. 1866

Dearest

Must write you a bit tonight of our great occasion. The Boys you know had been promised an excursion to the Lake — sometime. The Livery Stable men had turned over a new leaf, or got a new wrinkle, and refused to let their horses to rowdies on such occasions, for extortionate prices. So decent people could get them at somewhat usual prices. Mr Boyd you know has moved down to his place at Avon Point, and got tolerably fixed up there. So he urgently invited Mr Nelson, Eliab & Myself to bring our Children down there for the 4th, And we went.

Mr Nelson, with Kate & Anna and the three Children

E. W. with Maria & Hattie and 4 Children.

Self & Children & Percy, including John, & Eliza to care for him.

Boyd has got quite a nice place fixed up there. not much of a house, but in a nice place on the Lake Shore. Go down to get there through French Creek and Avon Centre past where (I guess you remember going there), where the Slouders live.

Israel July 4 1866

Charles & A. T. Ely are staying down there with Mrs Boyd for their health. So with Boyd's children were 4. Then J. L. Cole & R. W. Pomroy, who, you may have heard, have started a bit of vineyard next to Boyds, came down with their wives and children. And it was quite a mess of young folks. Some what more than twenty of the little ones. And they had a great time. John crowed & shouted to his hearts content, and the children were all good as pie, Lucy was no more than crazy, and that is as much as could be expected. We started at 8 A.M. Got back at 7 P.M. {Mohawk's ... wagon road}

The Pic nic a dinner out under the trees with iced lemonade and all the fixings, And before we got through Boyd brought out a freezer of Ice Cream sufficient for the crowd. There was a fine shower the night before, so that there was no dust.

For the other side, or the chapter of accidents: Little John's hat blew off & the carriage wheels of the next carriage ran over it crushing it into the mud. However, it came into shape again and the mud came off when it got dry. Mr Wilson broke in a jolt his new $300. or $500.00

Boston Buggy. But the break was not very bad and he got home with it.
Then Mr Nelson, who was the unfortunate one generally, forgot to take out his teeth when he went in swimming, there came a big wave splashing over him, throwing some water in his mouth, and opening his mouth suddenly to let out the water, out came the teeth also, and were seen no more!
Whereupon and thereafter the poor man did look and talk — well — horribly.
Every thing else went off admirably, and entirely satisfactorily. The children came home very good naturedly tired, and are now all very fast asleep. The only drawback was that we found no letter from you at P. O. on return — or rather, as every one there said, and we felt, that you were not there with us.
Hope we will write particularly how you and Mary get along, how your health is &c. &c. &c.
And write often.

Especially
Isaac

Elyria, July 6 1866

[illegible] July 6 1866

Vittie Dearest

I mailed a letter to you yesterday, giving an account of our Fourth of July at the Lake. Last night came your letter of Sunday & Monday July 1st & Second, whereof we were glad. Little Anna shouts in great glee over her little letter from May, and John is always ready to join in with her.

I went into the old Yarmouth Church once, I was there, although not on the Sabbath, so I did not see it 'clothed' with the audience.

I am sorry you do not enjoy your 'rest'. You must try to do so — for the profit — benefit — of it, may perhaps depend in some measure upon your enjoyment or enjoying it. If yr "occupation's gone"; you must make to yourself another of enjoying the lack of occupation.

The 'weight' you speak of upon your spirits must have been a 'premonition', I guess, of the burning up of Portland; which came the next day did it not? Did you see the fire I wonder from Yarmouth.

You think you 'ought to be doing some good'. Of course you ought every day of your life. At home you have

have a great and constant good work - none more so - on your hands all the time. This summer while away from home you have much good to do in renewing your health and strength for your usual good doing. I hope you will be careful of Mary's reading too constantly, especially of stories - and of eating too much of cakes and candies. You speak of delightful weather

I do not know but it is here. But it is very wet. great rains, or very heavy showers follow each other almost every day. Tuesday night was a very great rain, Wednesday night a little one, and now Friday P. M. 6½ is a very heavy shower. Weather is quite warm withal. Strawberries are gone. Raspberries in full force. ~~Green Peas abundant and likely to be all Summer.~~ New Potatoes large enough - but we do not use them yet. You write of my coming East after you. You havn't yet replied to my question of whether you wanted me to come in Aug. Sept, or Oct. Really to look at it, it hardly seems as if I could go at all. What can I do with the children if I go. It is considerable to leave to any body's care. Eliza has not yet made Currant Jelly. She has canned lots of Gooseberries. The things you speak of I will try to bring (if) I come.

Sabbath, July 8, 1866, Elyria

Janet July 8 1866

Dearest

I did not get any letter from you yesterday nor did I mail this letter which I had written ready to send. It still continues very hot and rainy here. Great rain on Friday afternoon and night, and another of the same sort Saturday afternoon and night. We are all in good health and strength, all eating full rations I think, in spite of the rains and hot weather.

A letter from Mary Barber came yesterday, which I will perhaps mail with this to you.

Mr Williams preached today upon the Love of God. Communion. Anna Maud Penfield baptised. Allie Crane, and Miss Clark (Lorenzo Clark's daughter of Carlisle Centre), admitted to the church, with Mrs Herman, Mrs Washburn's mother, by letter, in September.

Mother framed brought home yesterday five Photographs of Mother, framed. Price $36.00. Charles carried one home this afternoon.

Yesterday was Circus day in Elyria, and crowds of people in town. Irving & Percy spent the day mostly here.

I have written to Mary Barber telling her that your being away need make no difference about her coming here in her vacation, if most for her convenience to do so.
Declining to advise her about going to Troy, as I do not know the people there.
What a terrible Fire at Portland, and all from boys Fire Crackers. I suppose you might have seen the light, and perhaps felt the smoke of it. And perhaps see the fugitives from it.
I wish you would write very frequently, and fully, and we will try to do the same.
Monthly Concert this Evening, few there on acct of the Rain. It has not rained very much today but very constant threatening. Last night was great rain, and it looks as if it might be repeated tonight.
Nellie Hall who has been quite sick has got about again. No one else sick that I think of, except Joseph Rich who is not very well though about. Please write often

Sincerely
Isaac

Little Anna says she "must write to Sister May"
It would amuse you to see Little John get in the closet and hug & kiss your old dress which hangs there.

Isaac
July 10 1866

Elyria July 10 '66

Dearest
Your letter of the 5th inst
came to hand last night.
Glad to hear from you.
Sorry to hear father is not well.
Glad of you & May are doing well.
We are all in fine condition.
Little John is lively as a cricket and
happy as a bird. Little Anna is
apparently thoroughly well. I have
been afraid she would make herself
sick eating so many currants.
But they seem to agree first
rate with her. She will eat of
them whenever she pleases.

She is just about no trouble at all any time.
The Boys are apparently trying to do well this vacation, and are doing so, yesterday they picked 20 Qts of Currants, and today Eliza is making Jelly. Some of the Currants they carried to Mrs Fox Cliff who wanted what we could spare. Eliza does first rate as far as I can see.
The Children appear to be always well dressed, clean and whole.
Eliza was homesick or lonesome I guess when you first went away but has got over it I guess.
She is making Jelly today.
Charles & Charley are here today haying and cutting wheat &c

I hope you will write often & fully.

I want to know whether you and May are really improving in health and strength,

I told Eliza the other day that perhaps I would take Little John with me and go East after you And it troubled her exceedingly she thought we were unwilling to trust him with her alone.

When do you want to come home?

Especially

J. Sawl.

Isaac) July 11 1866 Elyria July 11 '66

Dearest,

I have no letter from you to reply to tonight – but have a Newspaper Copy of the Portland Press of July 7 containing acct of great fire. Much obliged to you therefor. Have mailed two letters to you this week, but one mailed yesterday, I found in the P. O. Box this morning, it having been directed "Elyria O." instead of "Yarmouth Me".

Lawyers W. W. Boynton & J. C. Hale leave town tomorrow morning for Down East. I do not know though as they will go any farther than Boston. Mrs Boynton I judge goes too. Mrs Hale perhaps is East already. Mrs & Mr Lewis just now called enquiring for Little Anna.

The Children are all very well.
Little John as merry as a Lark all day, and
sleeps first rate nights
Little Anna ditto in her quiet way.
Wilder & Charley are very good boys.
Eliza certainly does first rate. Every
thing appears to be in good order and
condition in & about the house.
Children whole and clean. I notice
that she sits mending boys clothes a good
deal, though I guess vacation is no harder
for such things than school.
Lyme Mussey is sort of sick. I believe
they think for going into the River so much,
Wilder went over and sat with him a spell
this afternoon. He is "Afflicted with sore boils".
Mr Wills & Old Corps of Teachers mostly are
reemployed in spite of opposition of "New Comers"
Eliab has been laying down Stone Walks
[illegible] to Berea and got the stone.
Alfred Stevens has gone to Iowa to a good
place secured for him by Miss Green.
Contest between Washburn & Doolittle for Probate
Judge [illegible] quite warm,
Perhaps I wrote you about my Caning. It is
Russel K. Miedge's cane, it appears,
Perhaps I may add to this tomorrow Isaac

Isaac
July 12 1866

Elyria. July 12 1866
My Dearest
Your letter of 7–9th
inst came to hand tonight.
I wrote to you last night but did
not send the letter, thinking I
would wait for today's mail, as
there was one letter already in
the Post Office to go today.

We are still all in very comforta
ble circumstances here, although
it is very hot weather. At least
is the day down town and
every where else. The hot
weather does not seem to trou
ble me any. In fact I have
hardly put on thin clothing till within

within a day or two past.
Many seem excessively affected with the weather.
I do not think the Children mind it much either. Anna wanders about in the hot sunshine some times with something on her head and sometimes without, and does not seem to mind it at all. The Boys have wit enough to prefer the shade I think.
Little Don John we try to keep out of the hottest of the sun shine somewhat if possible.
I guess he has forgot all about you. At any rate he has got done going to the gate to look for, or calling for you.
Some of us here think he is quite a

a nice little fellow.
I got today a couple of new and peculiarly striped palmetto, — palmleaf hats for the boys. John 'went for' one as the soldier boys say immediately, and took to it astonishingly. Utterly refused to have it taken off his head at the supper table — occasionally take it off himself to admire it, would not trust it out of his hands on any account. And absolutely insisted upon taking it to bed with him.
I have bought a new $15.00 Bureau for the boys room, with which they are well pleased.
They have been over to Mr Innis' today to carry papers.
Prayer Meeting tonight attended by several very languid looking people

very diligent withal — at least in the use of fancy.
Glad to hear of your increased health fulness. Be careful and not get tired & sick going to Dunbarton. Shall you take May with you to Dunbarton, or leave her at Yarmouth?
I really do not know what to do about going East. I hardly see how I can go away and leave these young ones. Suppose they should be sick any ~~of~~ them.
Relatives & friends are never to be trusted with children, are they? Even Anna, Little John went down there last week an hour or two, and they gave him cake or gingerbread or something, almost made him sick:
If I do go I doubt if I get there the 28th, more likely to start the 30th. But I really do not yet see hardly how to conclude to go at all. What do you really think about it? — Is this the end of the sheet?
Surely Isaac

Recd July 15 1866

Elyria, July 15th 1866

My Dearest

Your letter of Wednesday 11th came to hand last night 14th. Making three we received during the week; one on Monday which ought to have come Saturday perhaps; one in the Midst of the week and one at its close.

It seems that George is indispensable at Installations &c. But I presume the change in your arrangements is no very great trouble — to you at least. You can just as well go one time as another.

As for my going, I really do not know what to think. Sometimes — and perhaps that is most of the time, I think, that I certainly cannot go at all. It is exceeding warm weather; By the way, today, yesterday, and the day before, are called about the hottest weather ever known here. The "heated term" is upon us in full force. People already begin to talk of '54. It is only just one week since it rained, and it is already a burning drouth. The hot weather "takes hold" of little folks you know; they are cross and restless, and need somebody to take care of them. I do not wish you were at home, I want you should stay there if possible through as long as the hot weather continues, I am afraid you and May would melt all away in this weather. I most wish all the rest of the children were away in some cooler place. Yet I suppose this

vicinity of the Lake Erie is cooler than almost any other place so far south as this.
The Children all seem to be strong & healthy. And yet in such extremely warm weather, if little Children get hold of green fruit or cake or fat meat or any thing not easy of digestion they are sure to be half sick and cross and restless. One day last week Little John and Anna got hold of & bit some green apples — the early windfalls are beginning to get mellow you know — and that night betwixt em they kept me awake about all night. However I do not know but they were just as well as ever by the next day.
If I should go away, I do not know but there would be a quarrel about the Children. Mrs Griss insists upon having Little Anna. Eliza and Maria are like to quarrel about Little Don John. Eliza would feel terribly if John should not be left with her; and Maria thinks he ought to come there.
This hot weather make people stay at home here. Thursday evening meeting was but half attended, and today both Church and Sabbath School were very thin indeed.
Mr Wilbur preached an excellent sermon upon Christian Faith, very valuable to young Christians as well as to the rest of us. But I am afraid no Children like May would understand much of it. I do not know but I did about as well as Mr Wilbur. You see last Sabbath there was a collection taken up to help purchase a new Sabbath School Library, which as Mr Wilbur introduced

the subject resulted in the magnificent collection of $7.84, mainly in dimes with a few coppers & quarters. I was dissatisfied, and remonstrated, & proposed to try again. So today Mr Wilbur called upon the Superintendent for explanation. I got up and made a statement to the great congregation. Thereupon resulted a contribution of about $70.00 with over a dozen names to hear from left blank on the cards, including Eli J. Nelson. Whole collection amount to about a $100.00 I reckon. Upon the strength of that we donated some of our old books to a Sabbath School Mr & Mrs Boyd have started down on the Lake Shore in Avon.
Samuel Foster arrived yesterday. He will probably stop a few days. I do not know how long. I guess likely he will call at Yarmouth on his way to Bangor. By the way he is coming back sometime in August probably.
If I do not get there, you might return with him.
I really do not know what to think about it. I suppose you want to know when to expect me. I cannot tell. I do not think I will get away in ~~August~~ July, or until the very last, say - if I go at all start Monday June 30th. If the children all seem doing well and the mother good for them I may start then. But do not be too confident of it. I may not come at all.
Perhaps we will let little Anna go over to Mr Innis' awhile this week to see how she gets along over there and whether little John get along without her or is lonesome & fretting for her.

Would it not be the best way for you to make out your visit alone this year, stay as long as you like, if we are all well, perhaps come back with Samuel when he comes — or if that does not suit, get George to come to Boston with you — you paying his fare — and from there you could come alone well enough couldn't you? And I will make my visit alone next year. I should want to be at Brunswick at Commencement next year at any rate — Twenty years Class Meeting you know.

It is not just the thing to leave such a family as ours alone with any body a great while. Eliza is just as good as any body could be, perfectly faithful & trustworthy; would take any pains or inconvenience whatever to do every thing just right and care for the children the best she knows. But after all I guess you would a little rather trust them with me here, and I know I should with you here. The best way after all is to travel en masse the whole family, children & all. I think we shall eventually have to adopt that plan. When the children get a little bigger perhaps. What do you think of the whole matter? Call for the previous question?

I was going to send you some money in this letter. If you go to Pembroke Wednesday, this will not get to Yarmouth before you leave there. Perhaps I had better direct it to Pembroke

Especially

Isaac.

July 17. 1866. Elyria
Tuesday Eve.

My Dearest

I have just written a letter to Rev. J. N. Vinton in reply to one from him asking for Coal. Last night wrote one to S. L. Jenkins in reply to one from him. He is established at Boston you know. Your letter of the 13th came to hand this evening. The Boys and myself wrote a big letter to you Sunday night, mailed yesterday morning, which after some hesitation I directed to Pembroke; thinking it would not get around before Thursday, and that by that time you would be there rather than at Yarmouth. I wrote much about going East, or rather not going, and mostly concluding it was hardly best to try to go. If I went I should hardly feel like staying more than the fewest possible days to go and come in, and perhaps it would hardly be worth the while if you could come back alone or with Samuel or somehow

There would seem to be no difficulty about the Children, or about any one of them in particular at any rate. Wilder could go up to Charles' or over to Mr Swiss, Charley to Dr DeWitts or half a dozen other places; he has a first class invitation to go down to Boyds' on the Lake Shore. Geo Boyd you know is an especial Chum of his. Anna could stay at Swiss's or any where else, would be good and slight trouble any where; and Little Dear John, could go to Eliab, or Eliza could [illegible]

the best of care of him here. And yet somehow
collectively I do not feel a bit like leaving them.
Perhaps however I may start off in a [illegible]
day, but it is very doubtful
Glad to hear of May's well doing. I must write
to her dear self, specially, I think.
Took Anna tonight over to Mr Twiss by way
of Experiment. Do not know how it will answer.
Little John wanted "Nanny" "Nunny" very frequently
after she was. I suspect he will be sort of lonesome
and fretting for her.
You speak of dry weather for our lot. You need not [illegible]
~~much~~ now on that score. It cleared off here on
Monday July 9th. Since then a cloudless sky, the heat
will the thermometer any where but in the ice houses has
ranged from 90 to 100, and the Drought already begins
to be severe! To night a few cloudy minutes and
a bare sprinkle seem to have cooled the air a little.

Undeniably Isaac

Isaac July 17 1866

Isaac
July 19 1866

Elyria, July 19 1866

Very Dearest

Your letter to Charley came to hand tonight. Charley & Wilder had gone over to Mr Fuiss' to see Emma to carry her some clothes or lead her home as might be. She went over there on Tuesday P.M. I should not see the boys, (as it was meeting night) until tomorrow morning. So I thought I might as well read the letter myself. And now perhaps I may as well answer it. Though I do not know as it needs especial answer, except that we are especially glad to have you write to us often and particularly.

It is very comfortably cool for a day or two past, Cloudy, though with very little rain, just enough yesterday afternoon to wet my hay; the Three acre Meadow beyond the Henson house was mowed by a mowing Machine Yesterday morning. The Sun did not come out and it did not dry enough to rake up and it got wet before night. To day the boys & myself, have worked over it most of the the afternoon & Charles & his three boys two or three hours and it is now nearly in a little less than, 150 cocks.
(on which there is nice smart rain now
The Cooler weather is nice for the Children, John feels much better for it and sleeps like a top, besides needing hardly any care all day.
During the very warm weather he was red & itching all over
Other people I guess feel better too judging from the Meetings. Prayer

Meetings last week & week before quite thin. Tonight the room quite full and a very good meeting. Just six prayers and six Exhortations, besides a few remarks of Mr Wilbur.

Charley will be greatly pleased at his letter, and Wilder will make a comical face because he has not one. Rev Geo A Perkins I very well remember. Though seeing his name occasionally of late I hardly knew if it was the same, slender, pale faced hard student.

Do I understand that you wanted another picture of John tried for? We thought that was about right.

When are you going back from Pembroke & Dunbarton?

Samuel left here this morning. I was sorry it happened so you were gone from Yarmouth the last part

of this week and first of next.
Samuel might have called at Yarmouth
if you had been to be there. I might have
sent some money to you by him. You
might have gone on with him to go to
Brownville to visit a little there. As it is
so doubtful about my going on at all;
or if I should about my stopping to visit.
And judging from a letter Charles received
from Almeda yesterday there is little or no
prospect of her coming North this fall. She
said she could not at any rate come
with Samuel for she could not at all
travel in hot weather.
And the state of Hattie's (James' wife's)
health was such it was very doubtful
if she could leave at all. She is threat-
ened with Consumption I guess.

Sincerely

Isaac.

Elyria July 22d 1866

Very Dearest

Yours of the 18th inst came to hand last night. Your letters seem to come this way quicker than mine go to you do they not. I mailed [illegible] letters [illegible] or three to [illegible], I do not know whether they will get there while you are there or not. I do not understand from your letter just how long you are going to stay in New Hampshire - especially under the new arrangement ~~that~~ George does not go with you. It seems to have happened just wrong in some respects about the time of your going to New Hamp. I was calculating about sending to you by Samuel. He left here for Maine the same day your letter that came last night was written Wednesday 18th. If you were at Yarmouth he would have called there. I intended to send some money to you by him. It would have been a good chance for you to go to see Almeda with him. That is, if you had better go there. It seems that Almeda is not at all likely to come most any time soon: As I have written to you, she cannot come in warm weather, and James' wife is sick, and there is evidently little probability that she will be able to leave her. I judged from somewhat you wrote or said that if Almeda was not coming to Ohio this season you should want to visit her. If Samuel had called at Yarmouth while you were there you could have gone

right down to Bangor & Brownville with him.
However it will all be right somehow, and it was unavoidable as there was no way of foreseeing the Miller.
Samuel I think will write you after he get to Bangor or somewhere, and perhaps he may yet be some convenience in helping you to get there if you should think it best to try to do so.
To go to Brownville you would have to go to Bangor in Afternoon. Stay over night there, and the next day have a long hard ride by Stage Coach 40 Miles or more to Brownville, And at Brownville you know they live 5 miles away off over the hills & far away. Though if they knew what day to expect you they would be down to the Village to meet you doubtless.
I doubt if it is worth your while to try to go there at all this Summer at any rate if you have to go alone.
Samuel took him him that Large Carpet Sack all filled with things, for Almeda, Large Photograph in frame, the two Bibles for James & Lizzy, and Sunday dresses &c. that Anna picked out, or gave to me to pack.

I do not yet decide hardly what to do about going to Illinois after you. If I should go I should not feel like stopping at all, or hardly. What time do you want to come home if I do not come after you? Perhaps you could come with Samuel when he and his wife come back, which will be [illegible] time in August, he hardly knew when [illegible]. [illegible] the difficulty of coming home alone [illegible]

Yarmouth would be no more than of going there once and much less than of going from there to New Hampshire or to Bangor. Perhaps you could get George or some one to come to Boston with you, if you choose.
You say if you came to Maine, your anxiety would be only for the boys. I do not know as I should feel much anxiety about them. They are really pretty good boys. Wilder especially is in unusually good health for him. He would I think be a good boy and do well wherever he was left. Charley has not improved in health and strength this summer as Wilder has, appetite is more irregular, is more fretful &c. &c. But he would be a good boy anywhere. And Anna is exceeding good & very little trouble any where. And as for little Tom John, Eliza gets along first rate with him. And yet I do not seem to care to leave them. Eliza does not know at all what to do with them if they are sick. It is to be, or to be going to be a sickly season you know. They are all nice and well now perhaps unusually so — but I keep thinking, what if they should be sick and neither of us with them.
I will send you some money in the next letter. This one will be mailed tomorrow morning before Bank hours. By the way Ellyria is to be next month a Money Order Post Office, which will be quite convenient. I believe there is no Bank in Yarmouth is there.

Mr [illegible] preached today, very good [illegible] for [illegible]

[illegible] sermon. "Let your moderation be known to all men."

Audience quite large. Some out of town, but many

visitors.

Weather here was most excessively warm from the 10th

to the 18th of July, perfectly torrid. Since then a little cooler

mostly cloudy and with some rain. The "heated term"

surpassed almost anything previously experienced here.

Eliza & Wilder are gone to meeting this morning.

While I stay with the children. Eliza goes

to meeting monday mornings & Thursdays.

I will write again in a day or two.

Sincerely

Isaac

Elyria, Monday Eve
July 23rd 1866

Anna C July 23 1866

Dear Al

I mailed an epistle to you this morning, but it being before Bank hours, (the letter was written on Sunday), I could not enclose any money. To day I have purchased a New York Draft for fifty dollars which I will enclose herewith. Our Money order office (P.O. Money Order) will not be running till next month comes in. This Draft will not be much trouble to you. I was almost inclined to send Bank Bills in a letter but this is safer; and if there is no Bank at Yarmouth you can easily get it cashed. Perhaps George can give you the money and get it cashed when he goes to Portland, and give you the money, or probably any merchant or trader at Yarmouth will cash it for you. You will need to write your name across the back of the Draft, just as mine is: simply your name if it goes right into Bank, order & name (as it is now) if you want it paid to any one else.

Finish haying today — got in my meadow mowed unfortunately last Wed. the day the heated term broke up. somewhat injured by the weather.

Elisha & Maria talk of going to Pennsylvania the same trip you & I took two years ago, start next week, be gone some time; talk of taking two of the

[illegible] Tom I think; Lucy and Willie. When do you mean to come home.
All things considered, I have about come to the conclusion that I better not go after you, that is always, if you think you can come alone well enough and think it is best so.
If I do not you will of course stay just as long as you think best. We are getting along very nice here and can all summer. If you are gaining in health & strength and fat & spirits &c. &c. and may also, there where you feel the fresh salt water breezes every day. You had perhaps better stay and keep doing so.
It may be for your health to stay there all through the hot weather. We can get along first rate without you — or if we should be sick or any thing the matter we could telegraph to you and you know it in an hour or two any time.
If you want more money I can send it any time whenever you want. Let me know how much you have and write often & fully

Sincerely,
Yours
Isaac.

Isaac
July 25 1866

Elgin, July 25 1866

Dearest Nellie

yours of the 20th came to hand
last night and also a[illegible] as of
your late arrival at Pembroke
[illegible] mailed a letter to [illegible] or [illegible]
[illegible] on [illegible] (Pembroke)
[illegible] to Elgin [illegible] again
I did not know [illegible] long you
would remain in New Hamp
shire. Perhaps one of them
George may remail to you
at Dunbarton, otherwise you
may be at Dunbarton a [illegible]
without any letter.

[illegible] we are all right here, neither

you heartborn as or not.
I did send the [illegible] to
you or any one by Samuel
cause you [illegible] bring [illegible]
[illegible] Samuel
[illegible], he [illegible] not call [illegible].
[illegible]
If I [illegible] you [illegible]
you, perhaps [illegible] had [illegible]
[illegible]. They [illegible] in
a letter [illegible] to [illegible]
and [illegible] to [illegible] you
[illegible].
Your sharp eyed Conductor [illegible]
½ fare [illegible] May, [illegible]
[illegible] with [illegible] on [illegible]
own pocket instead [illegible] R.R.

I should like to [illegible] the [illegible]
as [illegible] as many [illegible] as you
have seen or will see.
I mailed a letter to [illegible] mouth
yesterday enclosing a Draft
for $50.00 payable to yr order.
If you want more let me know
Have all you want. Buy any
thing you want that you
think you can get on [illegible]
[illegible] [illegible] [illegible] here.

Absolutely yrs
[illegible]

Elgin, Feb. 27, 1866

[illegible] Feb 2 1866

My dear [illegible]

[illegible] the [illegible] received [illegible] [illegible] and [illegible] right. Glad to [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] you are enjoying a fine [illegible] ([illegible] [illegible] [illegible] [illegible], [illegible]) this [illegible]. [illegible] I have mailed a letter [illegible] to reach you there, but will now send [illegible], [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] you need [illegible] [illegible] [illegible]. [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] [illegible]. E. G. [illegible], Capt. [illegible], [illegible], [illegible] & [illegible].

[illegible] Spring is commencing here. Yesterday [illegible], [illegible] horse & buggy [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] & [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] & [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] ([illegible] [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] [illegible]), [illegible] the [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] [illegible]. The [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] [illegible]. [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] for you [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] [illegible].

Children all smart & well.
John improving daily in [illegible] & conduct.
Meeting last [illegible] full & strong
at [illegible] of all Methodist experience in
[illegible] next Sabbath.
Bro Dewitt. Clara have a [illegible] class
at their meeting.
Mark & Maria are very well also.
The old people at [illegible] getting along [illegible]

Isaac July 29/1866

Elyria, July 29, 1866

Dearest

We did not get any letter from you yesterday, and none from Dunbarton; wherefor Mrs Ferris & Mrs Porter enquired at Church. No letter came, but Mary F Barber did come arriving from Sandusky on the afternoon train. However joyfully she might be welcomed, it is suspected by the cynical that a letter from yourself might have been equally welcome. Miss Barber attended a Prayer meeting at the Baptist church this forenoon I understand. However she was not especially missed at the Stone Church, where a quite full house was assembled to hear the Rev Theodore Holmes of East Hartford, who preached to beautiful acceptance, and also addressed the Sabbath School and also the infant class.

Mr Holmes is quite a handsome young man, appearing some 10 or 15 yrs under his reputed age, rather short but quite muscular with a bright sharp blue eye. (I imagine he will take well, though perhaps not very much of a Preacher; but evidently an energetic live man.

Children are all finely.
Little Don John is in fine health feels better and sleeps better I think than he has since you went away. Little Anna of course frets occasionally in the very hot weather; but I think John is getting acclimated to the extreme hot weather and it agrees with him better than with Fan Anna.
The Boys, as well as Percy have worked haying up to Uncle Charles the past week some. Haying is finished now.
When are you coming home? Do not hurry yourself. We are all getting on first rate. And all probably prefer that you should stay where you are if cooler more comfortable and gaining in health & strength both of you — much as of course we should like to see you and have you at home. Charley says wont she come **this** week? We have done well constantly in your absence fared sumptuously every day, and I have not perceived in myself or the Children any sort of lack or suffering for washing or mending. In fact I am afraid it is demonstrated that whatever we may have thought heretofore, even your precious self is not absolutely essential to the existence of this household. If you want more money I will send it any time, [illegible] we can have P.O. money order. You will want more money if you have chance to go shopping. Otherwise not perhaps.

Isaac
July 31 1866

Olympia July 31 1866

Dearest

Your letter of the 26th came to hand last night.
I am sorry about your not getting letters at Dunbar's. I had been a little longer [illegible] might perhaps have thought better, and directed a letter or two there instead of to Garmon's [illegible] to Pembroke.
However perhaps George remailed one or two from Garmon's.
I expect you are back at Garmon's again by this time, and find a lot of letters waiting you there.

We are all in fine health and spirits. John, Anna & Mae [illegible] grow at a great rate.
Mary Jane is [illegible] works [illegible] generally [illegible] as I judge.
Picking [illegible] this morning [illegible]
Eliza was going to Providence.
Elizabeth is to go to [illegible] till next [illegible]. He has got new [illegible] on his new [illegible] and cannot wear them.
Mr Holmes goes back to town today. Lee Truss at our house today.
Blackberries begin to ripen.
[illegible] corn to [illegible]

Little Annie's birth day
the 26th. She received as
gifts a Slate & Pencil, a
Primer, and a Picture Card
from Mary.

Charley's birth day tomorrow. I presume he has an
the grations, but I hardly
know what is him ....
.... a ........d.

Write frequently.

If you want more money
I will send you a P.O.
Money order next week.

Sincerely.

Claude.

Elyria Aug. 5 1866

Dearest

I got [your?] long letter from you last night from Yarmouth, written after you got back there— from Dunbarton. It seems letters [illegible] in Yarmouth [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] for [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] [illegible], I ought to have arranged it that some letter would have gone to Dunbarton. You must have had a fine time in many respects [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] and [illegible] up.

Last Sunday [illegible] [illegible] Mr [illegible] preached here, and today (the first [illegible] [illegible] but one Sunday) Mr Kenyon preached again. He is very much liked by many of the people; he [surely?] is a fine preacher. People will be greatly at a loss to choose between the two; some will [prefer?] one, and some the other, and not [know?] which to choose.

There is special Church meeting called for next Friday 11th, and special society meeting for Wednesday 15th.

I will go downtown myself in the morning, and if they have got the P.O. Money Order to running I will send some to you in this letter Monday morning. If not in another letter the next day.

I suspect you of some inclination
of coming home before long.
Well I do not believe there is hardly any
here who will be sorry to see you!
though we certainly get on especially well
without you. The children are all [illegible]
specially perhaps unusually well, and
every thing goes on better than could
have been expected.

Mary Barker you know is here now, and
makes herself generally, [illegible] and uni-
versally useful though I do not know as
every thing goes very much smoother than
it did before her arrival.

Isaac. Aug. 5 – 1856

Isaac
Aug. 6 1866

Mon: Eve. Aug. 6 1866

Dearest

I mailed a letter to you this morning. Intended to put a money order in it: but they had not got the new thing to run-ning so they could get one off in the morning. So I sent the letter without. I have got one during the day for $20.00 only and will send that tomorrow morning. I have had it made payable to George. Rev. George Whitman So he can draw it any time he goes to Portland. He will cash it for you perhaps and get it at his leisure. I do not know as this is as much as you will want but I have got no intimation how much you do need.

I will send more any day.
have been all day to day on
a criminal case adjourned from
all day Saturday
The Lagrange Burglary case of last
winter of which you may remember
3 or 4 men disguised broke into
Old Mrs Saxton's house 2 A.M. &
by threats, &c. did cut her throat con-
siderable — robbed her of $400 or 500.
Finally held John Dimmick
Caleb Bryant & Luther Clifford
for further trial at Common Pleas
30 or 40 witnesses Saturday & today.
Finally got through this one.
Time enough so I went in the
Prayer Meeting
Rev Mr Kenyon there & spoke
most of the evening.

Isaac
Aug. 8 1866

Elyria, Aug. 8, 1866

Dearest

I mailed a letter to you on Monday, and on Tuesday one to you and one to George, one with a Money order for $20.00, and the other with the directions. This morning I sent none. So tomorrow morning I will mail this enclosing what I carelessly omitted to send before some of those Photographs of Don John.

Last Night came to hand your letter of the 3d to Wilder with a peice to myself, whereof both were glad.

Last evening, Mr Foote of the Howard Mission whom you perhaps remember as being here last winter was here again with six little girls from the mission to sing, Meeting

in the Pres. Church, which was quite full, almost crowded, and satisfactorily entertained by the little singers &c.

Percy reports that his father is coming the last of next week.

Shall you come with him?

If we had no other reason, I do not know but we should begin to get anxious to have you come, for the very press of Enquiry for you. I begin to think you are the most important personage in this part of town; or in your whole circle of relatives & friends. Mrs Gates is sick in Cleveland. Father Monteith made a formal call here yesterday,

It is reported today that Rev John Monteith has asked a dismission from Euclid St. Cleveland.

Mrs Rollin C. DeWitt does not come home yet on account of the severe illness of her father.

Mr. T. L. Nelson is east.

The Combat between Washburn & Doolittle for Probate Judge Ship deepens.

Miss Mary Barber is very industrious throughout the house, and appears to be a very active and efficient assistant generally to Eliza; but I do not know but we get along just as smoothly and well as we have any time. The Children are all well and good natured, and we are generally

generally highly comfortable and convenient.

Abundance of Green Corn, and most all kinds of vegetables, besides the Blackberries, of which Eliza Canned the first I think today.

If this or any other letter should not reach Yarmouth till after you start for home, it can fall gracefully to the rest. There will be nothing serious or substantial enough to hurt them.

Love & kisses from several of us to Little May as well as yrself.

Sincerely

Isaac

Elgin Aug. 10 '66

My Dearest Hattie

I do not know but I have sent letters enough to you this week. And I did not get any from you today. But perhaps I could write a thing or two. You need not trouble yourself even to think of calling at Hartford to see Hattie Gaylord. She is expected here within a few days, perhaps tomorrow. Her husband has decided to leave where he now is, probably go West again somewhere. And from Mrs G.'s peculiar condition, it is essential that if she moves at all she should do it at once. So she is coming here at once to remain, &c. This will render it necessary for Percy to go somewhere else to board. Enough of that. — You need not go to [illegible]

A letter for you came today from C. Thurston, which I will not send to you as perhaps you may leave Yarmouth before it would reach you. I have opened and read the letter and will give you the substance of the [illegible]

Written from Dryden N. Y. Aug. 6th. At the request
Sister who is unable to write herself.
Soon after writing you, She had another and more se-
Billious Attack, her lungs also are diseased, her throat
sore — unable to speak aloud, very much emaciated,
Sits up but little; cannot remain many months.
Hope to get her home in a few weeks, which however
will not be easy unless she can gain a little
more strength as there are ten miles of Carriage
ride. If you have not returned to Elyria they
think you will take their place on yr way.
(This I do not think you could do now expecting to
find them at home, for it is very doubtful I judge
if she ever gets home.)
Mary (the letter continues) is desirous to see you
and would have sent a letter to you before this
if she could, but entirely unable to write her
self and Mother too feeble to write much.
Mother has been with us five weeks. &c.
(I do not know where Dryden is, and presume
you would not be likely to see any of the fam-
ily except by going there — at present.

Church Meeting this Afternoon.
Expression of Opinion as to the [illegible] Minister
by ballot — Holmes 33 } some blanks
Kenyon 18 } guilty, to the desire
of many, who thought it was to be about all that

other way. And I do not know but it might have been, if it had not been for the circumstances and way it was done.
Dr DeWitt had made a very effective speech against hasty action - the necessity of knowing more about any minister before we gave him a call. (You know this Church once settled a Pastor, who within a year or two was deposed from the Ministry for stealing his sermons.) Thereupon Mr Gates and Mr Metcalf, appeared to know every thing and told every thing of & about Mr Holmes; and no one could do the same or hardly know much any thing about Mr Benson.
Then his coming from Princeton Old School is against him especially Congregationally. But he certainly is a splendid preacher. Doubtless much superior to Mr Holmes in that respect at least.
Thereupon 33 to 18, it was apparently unanimously voted to request the Society to unite in requiring Mr Holmes to come and preach as stated supply for one year with a view to settlement eventually as Pastor.
Society meeting next week.

Combat thickens quoad P. Gate Judge Ship. Considerable excitement about the renomination

of Common Pleas Judge Burke
there of the Convention is next week
The last Month before Lorain Co. Fair
is passing, wherein the Secretary
is a busy individual

Excuse this ridiculously blotted sheet.

Lov &c. Exceedingly

Isaac

Isaac
Aug. 16 1866

Isaac Aug 12 1866

Elyria, Aug. 12, 1866

Dearest

Your letter of the 8th came to hand last evening. I think I wrote [illegible] to you last week. Now I am a little at a loss whether this will reach you before you start to leave Yarmouth for this [illegible] for we are somewhat expecting you to come home when Samuel Farber comes. And I understand he has written to [illegible] to expect him the latter part of this week. If that should be so, You & Samuel come together this week, you will probably start before this gets to Yarmouth. But if you should not come this week, you might like another letter.

We are all in good health & spirits.

I wrote you a day or two since that you need not go to Hartford as [illegible] Gaylord was expected here daily. I guess they expected her last night but she did not come I think.

I sent you last week a P.O. Money Order for $20.00 (?), and [illegible] three Photographs of [illegible].

Mr Wilcox preached this morning from
"The Grace of our Lord Jesus Christ be with you"
closing with very fervent invocations & blessing and peace, there were many tearful faces among his audience. It is said to be doubtful whether he preaches here again. I think expects to go to Wabash, Indiana, where he preached last Sabbath. It is said his family will remain here awhile at least.
Collection taken up today for A.B.C.F.M. Rather out of place, belonged in February but crowded out then, and necessary now as the last opportunity almost to get it in before the financial year of Am. Board closes this month.
The new S.S. Library used today for the first time. Not a great attendance on account of a rainy day.
This eve there was to have been a Tract Society Meeting addressed by Dr Mc ~~Elrain~~ Evans
I do not know whether there was any meeting or not. Just at meeting time came up a very violent shower, with extreme thunder & lightning. Charles & Albina came in after the shower went home without going to Meeting. Neighbor Chandler & wife took shelter here from the violence of the shower a while.

I am getting quite busy at my Office now a days. The Ag. Fair is coming along, it is just about a month [illegible]. The Boys have been helping me at the office considerably the past week. [illegible] is [illegible] quick and [illegible] things, arranging Class & Premium Cards &c. Then you know I have been editing a new edition of the Union School Regulations &c, which I have entirely re-written.
Then the New S. S. Library, I have written in and Catalogued. Getting up a New Catalogue to be printed &c. All these matters, with an occasional day of Justice Court, (two days on one case lately) with Church and Minister matters, and an exciting political canvass just coming up you may imagine draw me to my office a good many forenoons as well as the appointed 2 to 4 P.M.

[illegible] talk of [illegible] little May. [illegible] her [illegible] her to bring home some to compare with Little Lon John.

Well it is getting to be bed time. [illegible] from the [illegible] George & Fanny. Tell May she may kiss little George [illegible] three times for me. (That is if he likes to be kissed.) [illegible]

[illegible] Isaac.

Why do you not
write more par-
ticularly about
your own health?

1866

Elyria Aug 14

Dearest

Letter from you last night, dated of the 9th inst. But I did not write to you having mailed one to you that morning.

Percy got a Letter from his Father last night saying he might be expected next week Wednesday or Thursday.

Hattie Gaylord arrived tonight in good apparent health as I understood.

But Anna has no girl at all and is in great need of one.

Tomorrow I talk of going to Medina to Judicial Convention to renominate Judge Bliss. If you were at home I should have to go on the day after the Congressional Convention to renominate Judge Welker for Congress. Thus I escape in the time of yr absence

Stiles C. Aug. 14 1866

Mr Millar — I told you of his farewell
Sermon on Sunday. He is going right
away this week, takes charge of a
Female College at Wabash Indiana.
His family stay there awhile.
Funeral Sermon of Rev Mr [illegible]
tomorrow. I write you I think how
he died of Cholera at Cincinnati
last week, did I not.
Charles & Jas Rich at work here this week
with Team. Charles also tomorrow.
Our folks all very well.
Very good lot of Children also.
Some of them think they will be glad
to see their Mother.
Harry Barber goes tomorrow to [illegible]
or Camden or somewhere South [illegible]
to some Baptist Conventicle or other.

Affectionately
[illegible]

S. S. Metcalf
Nov. 29 / 46
Topsham

Topsham, Nov. 29th, 1846.

Dear Brother Eliab,

I received with much pleasure your letter of the 21st Inst. a few days since. It really did me good: I had almost forgotten how your writing looked, it had been so long since I had received any of your writing.

As regards your complaints about my letters, I acknowledge their justice to the full; at least as far as my last is concerned: It was just exactly no letter at all, and I did not really send it as one. I thought I wrote the circumstances; I was intending to write some letters to send with a book by a friend. The fellow started a week sooner than I expected. I was as I now constantly am much pressed with a variety of occupations. However I "hooked" most an hour in the morning from recitation & breakfast, most another at noon, and wrote four whole letters of which the one you received was a fair sample!

I hardly considered them all worth a single letter postage, in fact they hardly cost it; ~~but I wanted just to~~ put some of you in mind that there was such a brother of you as "S. S."

As I said I was much gratified at receiving your letter; although, instead of answering my multitude of questions, you seem to have preferred, with some justice to be sure, to retort them upon myself: and now I suppose I must fain try my own hand at answering some of them.

So it seems that Almeda has really got started to spend
the winter in Mass. Do you know where she is going to be?
Is she going to Royalston & Warwick, or among the
'Searles'; or is she going all round the lot?
And little Jamie stays behind. I wonder if the little
fellow was contented to be left. By the way I judge
that he is rather a good little boy, is he not?
Where should I direct a letter to Almeda? She ought
to write to me. Will it not be considerable trou
ble to Charles to take care of her things, tend "critters"
in both barns, I suppose, must he not?
It will take all his time this winter to 'do the chores',
without any teaming; that is, if he has no boy.
What I am afraid of is that he will not get time
to be married! What think you of it!
What induced W. Brown & Son to move across
the stream? I should think it inconvenient to
be so far off: I believe W. Brown owns his dwelling, so
he will not move that. I guess you will move
back next year. Do you have to go away over there
to open the store all these cold mornings, and
back again before breakfast? or do you get yr
breakfast first? I would, I think.
I should not think Your Brown's house was not
big enough for so large a party as 420 invitations.
guess it was lucky it was a rainy evening. I was at
a much bigger one in a bigger house 'tother night!
That same rainy Thursday night, did not I have
a great ride home in the rain from somewhere? Eh!

Dec. 3. Thanksgiving. It seems to me I could have been "summat" more thankful to day, if I could have got some letters from "Down East." It is about a month since I have heard any thing from Milo. I have toiled through this pouring rain & awful wet footing to both Post Offices, & got ——— Androscoggin Bank, Topsham, paid me yesterday $ 90,00 in part for teaching village school. Of which sum how ever I owe to various persons in Brunswick & Topsham & to Bowd. Coll. somewhat more than $ 150,00 I guess. They do not all get their pay this hitch, do they! Especially as I intend to reserve some $ 20,00 or 30,00 of it at least to pay my expenses in a contemplated trip to Yale. New Haven. I rather expect now to make a weeks' vacation, & go to Yale Col. a few days probably about Christmas. The Expenses of Journey however may be mostly refunded to me. Even if it does cost my own purse something, it may be no great loss to me in the End. It may not hurt me.

As for my situation here, I suppose you know pretty well about! I teach Topsham Village "Upper School." Considerable of a school, but a very laborious one abundance of bad scholars; some flogging, some scolding, some "getting along." It is a difficult affair. Some of them are ripening off rather fast. I fear they will go to feed at Thomaston yet.

However I get along "comfortably". I guess give good satisfaction. At any rate all the "Chief Priests and Rulers" are on my side & influence.

I have got considerably introduced to the Society of Topsham like it much. plenty of pleasant people. takes my time though

4th I undertook to finish this letter yesterday P. M.
but Josephine made me play Chequers, and then
some College friends came over, and so took my
time that I had to put it off till Evening.
With Evening came a pressing invitation to the annual
select game of "Blind Man's Buff" in the kitchen of
the Rev. Mr. Wheeler, Unitarian Clergyman of Topsham.
My little brother 'Charley', son of said Clergyman, was imp
erative. Very pleasant little Company only dozen or so.
children & all. Regular old fashioned good time.
good for the blues, or a homesick fellow.
You retort my question "What are you reading?"
It is not so easy a question for me to answer as for
you. I read a great deal of every thing. perhaps
too much. (no newspapers though). With Libraries
of 20.000 & more Volumes at command. Every
late work and all the important periodicals, reviews
&c. American & Foreign. Of course I do not lack
for matter of reading. When one is teaching so
laboriously, one cannot well read, that is study, much
real scientific or deep works. It is troublesome to think
too much besides teaching such a school & studying one
recitation per day, as I do. However I must to
keep up my literary standing read a good deal.
all the new things, reviews &c. Perhaps it makes
too much reading for the thinking, induces a kind
of mental Plethora. I guess you will think
is enough of this letter without it were better.
Some of "the gals" are coming this evening to play 'geese'
I must drop a least bit. try and do
if you will write soon. I will better next time } Excuse this Your Brother J. S. Thetea[?]

Northfield, April 21st 1848

Dear Brother Eliab

How happens it that I do not hear from you oftener? Now I remember it in a letter I received from you last winter, there was I suppose intended an answer to this question. However perhaps the letter itself with its own best refutation; for certainly he who can write such letters as that, ought to write far more of them than you do.

I had a letter from Anne a few days since, but it is now a good while since I have heard from either You or Joseph. I am thinking every day about you both, and "anxious to hear how you are getting on, and what business prospects are with you for the coming season. I suppose it has been rather dull times through the winter; and probably it will hardly be such a season for business as the last was, either in Bangor, or any where else. Business depression always follows war; and the results even of the Mexican War will undoubtedly have great effect, even in parts so remote from the principal scene of action. In a pecuniary point of view merely, War may be compared to a sort of National "Spree", perhaps borrowing Money to go off Gambling, or to a horse race; the depression which follows with peace is the going to work again to pay up the debts incurred. There - what think of that comparison?" Seriously however, this war appears to me a dreadful thing - not so much in its immediate or pecuniary effects. those cannot materially affect a Nation like U.S. but in its moral & political effects upon this Nation as well as

upon the Continent and the World. Engaging, under whatever pretext, in a War of Conquest, seems such an outrageous departure from the whole spirit and tendency of our institutions, and one likely to be productive of such dreadful results.
And then too the spirit and feeling it engenders, and which seems to be so much developing itself through the country, a spirit which until lately we had fondly hoped our country was too wise ever to give way too, a spirit & feeling which have been the destruction of all, especially of Republican Governments.
It almost makes me sick to hear men talk of the destiny of the U.S. and the Anglo Saxon race; to spread over the whole continent &c. and to think that people are imbibing such sentiments the very sentiments which destroyed Republican Greece, and Republican Rome; which so dreadfully destroyed the Republican France of the last Century.
Oh that this Country, with its beginning, its advancement, and its institutions, should thus turn aside from the higher & more glorious destiny which seemed opening before it; upon which it seemed to be so fairly entering. Its field of glory & ambition might have been so different, so new, so grand. It did seem destined to surpass all predecessors: but how? In the old blood stained darkened path in which the nations of the Earth have trod, and by the sides of which their mouldering bones lie bleaching, it could not hope to exceed, or to gain new glory. Alexander, Ceasar, & Bonaparte, man may not hope to surpass. The days of Cannae & Phillippi, of Austerlitz & Bodorino, we hope are passed. But there is a nobler destiny, a field of higher glory; an ambition to render our country the light & the blessing of the nations, the foremost of the new grand advance of peace, liberty, and religion.

But while our own beloved and favored land seems thus going backwards, receding from its high advance ground; the mighty events now going

on in Europe, are irresistably claiming the attention & interest of all.
I am interested in watching the present Revolutions in Europe as the developement in great measure of a new principle: as the type of a new Era in European history. They are the outbreak of labor, instead of money.
Formerly in Europe as every where, the Warrior ~~ruled~~ held sway the sword ruled with the king & the baron who wielded the sword. In former Revolutions Money asserted its power; the Merchant, the citizen, rose up against the Baron, the peer: the purse claimed precedence power with, or alone the sword.
It was somewhat so even in the Revolution of this country; varied tone by the peculiar character & influences of the people. Yet Money was the Base.
France illustrates the point. In former Revolutions, in 1790 in 1830, it was the "Bourgeois", the citizen, the Man of property, who rebelled and cast down the government, the government of the sword.
In February, in Paris, as it has been in Germany & Italy; it was an other, a lower which lifted up the head: one who was hardly thought worthy of notice before. This is the Revolution of "the Man in the blouse," of the Laborer, rather than of the Bourgeoise. Before, it was only the Merchant threw the Money bag into the scale against the Sword and weighed it down. The ~~Merch~~ Man in the blouse perhaps fared little better under the Merchant, than under the Baron. But here, as I read of a real incident in one of the German states, the Blouse man himself, before only the instrument of others, a big blacksmith stretched out his bony arm and laid his callous hand upon the shoulder of the Prince, demanding, & obtaining too, a Constitution! I suppose you read in the papers at least enough to know something of the astonishing events going forward in Europe. Do you also read U.S. polites. What appear to be prevailing ideas of the coming presidential affairs? Are you interested in these things?
And what Candidate for the Presidency do you prefer?

The Blouse is the frock of the European peasant.

My friend Morse writes to me that one of the Topsham girls (who has been passing the winter in Bangor, Miss Caroline Walker is being plentifully courted by a Mr Gould, a Lumberman, is it your Gould, who has so much to do at Brown's?
Is Edwin at home? and how does he carry himself?
How do You and Frank agree nowadays? I believe you enter upon a new year at Brown's this Month. Upon what sort of terms do you continue there? You ought to write to me of all these things, and very many others. Among others of how Charlie Harlow is doing, or is like to do.

You know I am coming on to Bangor soon
Am expecting now to start within a fortnight
I have written perhaps to Joseph about sending me a paper to know about the Boats.
Will not you see to it. I think I shall go by R.R. to Portland, then by Steamboat, and want to know what days, and on arrival of what trains.
They say there is to be a great time up to Milo.
We shall see.
This letter is not worth sending hardly.
I do not know but I might have thought of something to write about my self or my business, but I shall soon be there and can tell all.

Emeline letter to Joseph D Ames

1st Letter

[illegible]
[illegible] 6 [illegible] '61

Dear Brother [illegible].

This letter, if [illegible] will be addressed to you, [illegible] its contents [illegible] considered as addressed to your [illegible] [illegible].

I [illegible] you could [illegible] about half a day. You know the [illegible] that "This is a great world". Well, in some respects [illegible] here is [illegible] a great [illegible] world. Northern Illinois is settled by eastern [illegible] mostly. [illegible] by a sprinkling of [illegible] them, mostly [illegible] [illegible]. [illegible] Very many are from [illegible] & Ky. [illegible] together. [illegible] very curious set of people. A mile apart [illegible] neighbors [illegible] a village! [illegible] farms an immense amount of land [illegible] pastures the whole surrounding [illegible].

Where we are now [illegible] or ten miles across [illegible] Muddy river [illegible] in timber. Farms are about as plenty in the timber [illegible] but [illegible] felling [illegible] trees [illegible] never known here. The trees are girdled, and stand or fall till they rot. A farm is a [illegible] of dead trees. The Crops raised are { Wheat .50 per bu. Corn .25 [illegible] Oats .25 [illegible] (Castor beans) .50 [illegible] sometimes $1.00 [illegible] } [illegible] Tobacco & Cotton are also raised some. Peaches are the principal fruit, but this year [illegible] killed by frost.

[illegible] Yesterday I worked through a Corn field [illegible] just ready to [illegible]. Ears are sometimes found [illegible] [illegible] yields [illegible] One or two ears in a hill [illegible] [illegible] times.

[illegible] with work here commenced upon Muddy river, in a little Creek [illegible], at a Sweet Gum tree; thence to a Post Oak Tree. I hardly know [illegible] of any trees [illegible] down in [illegible]. Some of the [illegible] trees. Hickory or Walnut [illegible] different [illegible] [illegible]. [illegible] is rare here. [illegible] great [illegible] of [illegible], the woodland is called [illegible], is Post Oak, [illegible], Pin Oak, and Black Oak, abundant Hickory, some Gum, Persimmon &c. Cotton Wood, Sycamore & that class in the River Bottoms. Beside these are [illegible] Locust, and some Plum trees &c. wild in the woods.

[illegible] are [illegible] and [illegible]:
There is no such thing known as any of the Pine or Fir family no black [illegible]. All hard wood every where.

[illegible] houses are Log, hewn or unhewn, and built in a [illegible] to make a Yankee stare. Poor folks have [illegible] room [illegible], no matter if 20 in family. Those better off, that is those whose farms are [illegible] say more than 1500 [illegible] have 2 rooms, [illegible] more.
They are all built alike. The 2 rooms are 2 houses, just alike, 8 to 12 feet apart, with one roof extending over both and the intermediate space, which in other respects is all open. This called "the Porch," is the principal place where the people live ~~always~~ eat & sit there. And really at this season at least, they are certainly the most comfortable [illegible] found under a roof. Always a current of air [illegible].
Where I now board, is a house of this kind, 2 large rooms & Porch, very good specimen of the class; [illegible] Dutch Farmer, family of 12 to 20. Our Party makes an addition of 10 or 12. All very well accommodated! This family, you remember, includes a number of strapping girls too.
Probably there is no one of these. One of these one ~~Room~~ houses, no matter how large the family, where they would not be ready and willing to hospitably accommodate strangers or travellers.

Well there is little or nothing in this letter and it is but little since I wrote last to some of you. But Postage is reduced now and amounts to scarcely a little. I am off a good ways, a long way, (right smart of distance, the Suckers would say) from the rest of you. I want to hear from you often, and I am willing to take it as granted that some of you will be willing to hear from me, and I shall write perhaps every Sabbath if I get time.

Some of the Expressions of the people here would amuse you
"like" for "as". "Eds do like I do". "allow" for think, guess, &c. &c.
"I reckon" is the universal answer instead of yes or any Affirmative
One with ague is "powerful weak" The farmer raises "right smart"
of Corn", and has "heap" of Cows or horses. "Pack" for carry. &c.
and their ways are far more curious than their words.
Helen I can stop to write no more.
Sincerely
C. C. H.

Mt. Hawkins, Perry Co. Illinois

Sabbath, August 3, 1857

Dear Brother Eliab

It is very many letters that I have addressed to you since I last saw you, and since I have heard a word from you in any form or manner; I do not know but it is a dozen or twenty. At any rate it is about one a week for the whole time, and that seems to me, judging by my own feelings, must be two or three years at the least.

This present letter is not so much written because I have any thing special or of importance to write unto you just now. Nor simply because the Postage is low. But simply principally, merely; or in great part to call your attention renewedly to the heading of this page, as a phrase extremely suitable to be used by you a part of the superscription of sundry letters I really believe it would look remarkably well upon the lower right hand corner of letters post marked Bangor Maine

If you judge that the preceeding page was written in the dark, you will judge not amiss.

We have been the last week in Office here at the Residence of B. G. Roots Esq. commonly known as Locust Hill, and which was formerly a large Boarding School kept by said B. G. Roots, who is now however connected with the R.R.

By the way I must tell you while I think of it. You know when I came on here, I would not agree to remain any time at all: only said I would come out and go to work, receive $2.50 per diem, and leave when I chose.

Well, at the end of July, I find myself allowed $ 3.00 per diem for the whole time.

Moreover I see my name set down from August First, at $ 3.50 per diem.

It looks a little as if they wanted to keep me here, does it not?

I presume that if I stay I can do well here, if the climate agrees with me.

Mr Roots is an Episcopalian, what they call a Lay Reader, and has regular service in full form at his house every Sabbath. That is the only Meeting however in the region, perhaps within 10 or 12 miles.

(May be some Methodist School House perhaps.

You can hardly imagine how anxious I am to hear from you all. Here I have written to Bangor about once a week since June 25. I have already received answers to letters written to New England almost a fortnight later but have as yet seen not one word from Maine.
I believe I wrote to you all in about every letter that the name of County, "Perry Co." was the most important part of address. I cannot see what is the matter.
It is possible Eliab is not in Bangor, Perhaps has follow my advice, and journeyed to New York State.
But in that Case you would get his letters and answer. At any rate I shall not direct this letter to him. Failing to get any answer from Mother at Bangor, I have just written to her ~~from~~ at Milo. This Letter Lucy you may consider as written to You Specially & Samuel to whom I will direct it. and shall expect you both to answer it immediately.
My health is very good, strength ditto. The warm weather they say is over mostly for this year, If not I have acquired the power of bearing it better. My only trouble now is to hear from you. And tomorrow I must go off 20 or 30 mls. and the letters of tomorrows mail will not reach me for two or three days.
Well there is Nothing in this letter, but I will send it as only 3 cts. worth out of Spite and Love to You All
W. S.

Mr Hawkins Ills
Aug 4th

Paid 3

Samuel W. Furber
Bangor
Maine

Paid J. S. M.

Isaac Aug. 1851

Perry Co Illinois. Aug. 15. 1851
17. 1851

Dear Brother Elijah

Your letter of July 27. 1851, dated at Woonsocket has just reached me nearly two days ago.

I wanted very much to dispatch a letter at once to Westfield hoping it might meet you there; but it was almost impossible. I should not have minded stopping the Party while I wrote it, but the expense of sending a man off to Post office express, 9 or 10 miles, which it would have been perhaps $2. or 3.00. and add to this the extreme probability that if it arrived at the P.O. that evening it would get started before tomorrow morning. In short it was best to wait.

You expected a letter from me at Woonsocket. Well, you do not yet realize how far out of the world I am, nor the difficulties in the way of the rapid transmission of intelligence to certain portions of our Country. I did not receive your letter requesting me to write to Woonsocket until Aug. 9. 1851. (More than a week as you perceive after you left Woonsocket. If I had written immediately to Woonsocket, it would probably have arrived there sometime awhile in September. Again you will perceive (if you ever have a chance) the great improbability of your ever receiving this letter in Westfield As it will probably reach there sometime in September.

The first letter I received from Maine, the first I heard from there after I left home in May last, was I think Aug. 6 or 7. when I received one from you enclosing one from Hannah, and merely stating that you had all written a week or two before. Moreover that you hoped Lucy was a little better than she had been. Well I did not know whether to think she was very sick or not. But two or three days after came other letters written a week or two before, and I have got one written by Lucy just after you left Bangor.

You can hardly imagine how [illegible] my letters [illegible] [illegible].

[illegible] I have written to [illegible] [illegible] since I came here, [illegible] have not yet received any [illegible] from there.

[illegible] Bangor [illegible] I have written [illegible] intended [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] week.

Miss E. A. Rich

I am glad you are travelling alone.
I wish I could travel with you
It is much more pleasant travelling in company
As comparatively an "Old traveller" I could undoubtedly be of considerable service to you. The "art of travelling" is certainly quite an art; to travel easily, comfortably, to enjoy it.
Still I expect __directions__ are not easily given. One must learn by __experience__, easier by experience in company with __one who knows__ to be sure.
If I had been with you when you started I would have given you a Chapter of directions.

I have no time now
The train leaves for P.O. [illegible]
I want to see you much, but cannot expect you to come here, could not advise you if you want to get back this season.
__Look in__, 1. 4. Go to Chicago if you have time
Look [illegible] in similar business

[illegible]

I shall direct this to [illegible]

[illegible]

Dunbarton. N.H.
Sept. 6 1856

Dear Eliab

The hand of the Lord is heavy upon me.
Mayo is dead. Our joy, our pride, our strength, our first born.
He was sick when I got back from Bangor, Saturday night or rather Sunday morning. It was a malignant dysentery, and nothing seemed to do any thing to help it. He grew worse & worse quite rapidly, until this morning at 3:45, when I closed those eyes I so loved, after watching the last quiver of agony in that little frame. Oh, it is a hard thing to bear to see such a little one suffer so:

It is a dreadful disease!
How he has suffered! And just as patient as a lamb all the time.
Oh, Eliab pray for us that all these things may be sanctified to our good. I expect I worshipped the the gift rather than the Giver, and now He has taken it away.

I cannot write more

~~[illegible]~~

Isaac

Ducoign, Perry Co. Illinois
Wed. Eve. Jan. 28th, 1857

Dear Brother Eliab

By Mail this afternoon came to hand your kind letter of Jan. 15th; also one from Samuel of Jan. 16 or 17th. For both of them I am heartily obliged to the respective writers. I was very glad to get these letters, but no more so than two others which arrived at the same time from Elysia.

I have by no means decided to go into the Ill. Central R.R. Co. Employ as Coal Manager. Probably shall determine to have nothing to do with it. Not however from the reason you suggest — that the $1500.00 per Annum is small pay. It is rather large pay for the office; larger than $2000.00 as a R.R. Engineer, or Superintendent; probably about equal to $2500.00 There is quite a difference. The Engineer or Superintendent belongs to the R.R. Co. not exactly — "body & soul"; but day & night, waking or sleeping; his whole existence is in a measure merged in that of the R.R. he seems to have no separate life, feeling, or interest.

The Coal Manager, on the other hand, has got no Rail Road, with its interests & responsibilities of life & property

attached to him, he would be no more than the Manager for any other Corporation or business. And then it ought to be worth at least one thousand dollars a year to my property and interests here to have me here all the time, and not too confined to be able to attend somewhat to my own interests. This Property is becoming more and more valuable, and more and more needs the owner's looking after.
There is now more than ~~six~~ seven thousand dollars dollars due on account of sales of lots here. The sales are now about two thousand dollars per month. Soon there will be another form of receipts from Coal rents and leases, and all needs looking after by the proprietor. If the proprietor, or either, or any proprietor is constantly absent his interests must and will suffer.
However, I do not think I shall stay here. Neither do I regard the Climate as a great objection. There is certainly no lovelier Climate than this for the larger part of the year. And it is getting very easy now to go North with ones family in the Summer months; very much easier than it was when I first came to this Country; When one could not get away at all at some seasons of the year.
What is, or is to be the Name & Style of your

your firm now Samuel goes out of it?
How do you expect to get along alone?
Be careful and not wear yourself out before your time. Try to take life easy.
Hope to hear that your baby is entirely well and healthy. I think you Bangor people keep Children in the house too much. They should be so warmly wrapped as not to feel the cold, but should get the out door air often.
I think now it may be best to get Charles out here again somewhere. He could do well here now as a Carpenter at any rate. Carpenter's wages here now are $2.00 to $2.50 per day, and likely to be higher rather than lower. And really Charles is better than the average of Carpenters in this County. But perhaps I will have some good place on R.R. business this Spring. I have had one or two situations offered me already; but none that I want exactly. And I cannot yet tell what I shall do.

Do you not think you had better give up at Bangor and come West some where. A little money goes far ~~there~~ here than East. It does not take a great deal to live on where money is worth 20 to 25 per cent.
I wish Samuel would conclude to

to leave Percy at Elyria, while he goes to Minnesota. Will Mother really not come out with him?

I do not pay very especial attention to politics, since the Presdtl Elections.

I wrote a long letter to Mother only a few days ago.

Write me if you make $30.000.00 by raising that sunken Ship.

Is there any thing of interest in Bangor this Winter? How are the times about money? Are there various failures?

I wish you would write frequently

Sincerely
Isaac S.

Elyria Ind. May 29 '57

Dear Brother

Think I wrote you not long since, and since receiving any thing from you. Have however seen some business notes from you to the Doctor about Evergreens By the way the man — Nursery man, for whom those trees were ordered was somewhat inclined not to take them — thought they might be only the common Fir that grows here, said they looked as if they were only dug up in the woods, instead of raised in a nursery — probably would not live many of them — Firs out of the woods never did &c. The Doctor will probably write you about it — The Box did not arrive till yesterday I believe.

I bought a house yesterday That is bargained for it, and made out the papers — but am not to take possession till the first of October next.

It is on West Avenue, about as far from Judge DeWitt's, as where we now live, but more out of town & 4 1/2 Acres of land back end of the lot a pine grove on the West Branch River bank, over two hundred young fruit trees of choice varieties started on it — Story & half house, small but large enough for our family. Shall add a little to the side of the house just to increase the size of our bed rooms, just as your house was fixed.

I pay $2100.00 for the place. The Doctor says it is worth $3000.00 I do not know but I may have to draw upon you to make the first payment in a few days. I have an abundance due from Du Quoin, but collections come rather slow from there. If I draw upon you how will it inconvenience you? It would suit you very well I suppose if I should draw on you for $500. or 600.00 on 60 days and get it discounted here, and then send you a New York Draft for the same amount within 30 days.

How are your finances this Summer. I wish you would write to me

more frequently & particularly.
Please write on receipt of this.
We had a letter from Samuel this week — all well — Theodore sick.
The Legislature there just in session have distributed the Congressional land grant. The Minnesota & Pacific R.R. Co. which gets the great east and west line — the fifty corporators — Minnesota men — are Directors for the first year. P. P. Furber & Saml Stinchfield are prominent. Surveys to be commenced immediately. S. W. thinks J. S. Metcalf can be Chief Engineer. I was almost inclined to start right up there next week.
Judge DeWitt has been quite sick confined to his house for two weeks or more, just got about again.
Anna is pretty well.
Antoinette quite "
Baby very "
And all the rest of us also.
Please write immediately
Sincerely
J. S. Metcalf

Isaac to Eliab,
Elyria May 29 57
Bangor

Chandler, Clement, Wing & 2 Sinclairs study surveying. Stout Classes Algebra

Foxcroft May 30th, 1844

Dear Brother

I received a letter from Milo, last Sat, the 25th, in which was written that you had been 'heard from'. I had learned about as much near a week before. (Task saw Butters & heard from you! although B— did not know what you were doing.

Lucy wrote only that you were at work in a Lath Mill, at Oldtown, for $10, per month.

I can only advise you to be careful of yourself & be sure that you get your wages. You cannot afford to 'take much out of your bones", for 10,00 per month. Though I dont know but that is about as much as you could expect to get, in cash, and work no harder than other people do, on a farm, for instance.

I am pretty comfortably situated here, board at Mr Sewall Cochran's, a very good place, Wm. P. Wing is my Roommate, a very fine fellow. School began Mond. the 20th, with 15 scholars, Tues. 21, Wed. 26, 'week' 31 and upwards. Pretty good school. Philbrick, Blake, Ivers, Washburn, Cake, Clement, Chandler, Wing, Stevens of Sangerville, Grafton, 2 Sinclairs of S. Dover good Scholars, &c &. Miss. Foss, Task, C. Holmes, Hopkins, Chandler, Palmer, Simpson, Farnham M. Edes & 5 or 6 little girls. Botanical Excursions bid fair to be quite an object this summer. I found, the other day, a flower I saw once last summer on the bog, but could not carry home. I expect it to be Orchis Spectabilis! curious looking plant, small.

I expect I shall be "head botanist," this summer. Although I do not know much about analyzing plants, still my knowledge is of a more practical character than any of the rest of the folks. Mr. Tash knows nothing about plants not even the names of any plants, common or classical. Miss Foss pretends to be something of a botanist & has a herbarium but I guess her Science is somewhat of the J. Prentiss order. Prentiss has gone to Paris or somewhere. Others are rusticating or at least, farming. Girls all School marms.

I had a long letter from Gilman Clark last week. You have probably heard of the great Row there lately.

"They read 1/2 or 2 pages of Xenophon there per diem & 2 of Livy. I generally read from 3 to 7 pages of Xenophon every morning before School & 3 or 4 or more pages of Livy in the course of the day. Smyths Algebra is not slow!

B. E. Clement rooms with Mr. Tash at Moultons, where Lucy would not let me. C. Holmes with Miss Tash at Stevens, Oakes & Stevens at Douty's — Still times!

"The Logs" have got down. Started by the last 4 days rain, arrived here Wed. Dams, ponds, rivers & booms all full of them. Sort them all over in Gilmans boom. Stricklands turned over for Oldtown. Considerable part of them however are piled up on the 2 dams, opposite my window. S. A. Moulton is to be married in a few weeks to J. W. Kelsey of Port Huron, Michagan

Wed. P.M. Went in swimming. W. P. Wing got in deep water and came near drowning. I picked him out without difficulty. He dont feel just well since!

I suppose things are going on in about the old style at home. Walton, was there and put up a Chymney Friday before I left. I don't know whether Gilman is there this week or not. Their farming is rather late for the season.
Ezra Barker was here last week is going to have his lame leg amputated, & wished to be Mesmerised, but he has naturally such a constitution that Dennis could not come it over him. He has been 3 years at Philips Exeter Academy. got up to top. Took 2 or 3, hundred dollar prizes, in succession. Supported by prize money &c entirely, 3 years, without teaching or anything.
His Class, in which his bill was No 1, all entered Cambridge last fall, a year in advance. Enquire how he succeeded last winter, 8 months, with that great school of, 100+ Oldtown rowdies; cripple as he is, has hardly stood up since.
It is too bad for such a fellow as he is, or might be, to lose a leg, mutilate such a peice of timber.
Philips Exeter, by his report, must be a place for severe discipline, thorough scholarship, & great advantages. 3 teachers No. of Students limited to 72, Charity Students prefered, smart ones. Richly funded. Thousand dollars dont know but more, distributed in prizes, per annum. Large libraries, every thing right.
Had not you or Elijah better try to go there. Barker says there is no difficulty in admittance on Charity, for one good scholar &c. Almost advised me to go there Old & advanced as I am. By him discipline is about equal to a College course, common.
I dont know but the Abstract of News which with I have fill'd this paper will be interesing to you or not. I will try & do better again, both matter & Manner Ever I. S. Metcalf

Careful of your health & constitution. Also your mind & your heart.

Sat. June 1st Eve. I have just returned from an Excursion, ride. J. Chandler has a brother lives up in Shirley. He was going up & invited me to take a seat in his waggon, yesterday. It began to rain, but we did not get much wet having a large umbrella. Stopped at Monson 3 or 4 hours. Up to Shirley some 8 or 9 miles further we went. Splended country that. noble hills & beautiful little ponds in abundance. Excellent soil, more hills & few rocks. good crops & good market. Moosehead you know. folks getting rich. Disappointed in Monson, hardly what it is cracked up: like up in woods better. Some glorious scenery among hills. We found some new plants there up. I brought home a species of Orchis. I think virescens, as described by Eaton, not down in Mrs Lincoln. Bracteata of Bigelow. The Convallaria tribe puzzle me greatly, books dont do them justice. Lots of species of that or some analagons. I believe I have found out 1 or 2 by Eaton & Bigelow.
You must write soon. & particularly. all how you get along &c. &c. what you do & how you board &c. &c.
What meeting is there, always go to Church
Tell Butters he promised to write
Why dont he. &c.

Mr Joseph M. Metcalf
Oldtown
Maine

10

May 30 1844

[illegible] April 27th 1845

Dear Brother

I believe I shall not be able to thank you for my knowledge that you are at [illegible], for you have taken no pains to let me know it yourself. However I find your name in the catalogue which have been sent [illegible], and moreover [illegible] received a letter from [illegible] April [illegible], [illegible] where you were &c. but from their complaints I gathered that you did not write more than once or twice oftener there than you have to me! I am afraid that you are not a very good hand to write letters to your brethren.

I think that such correspondences ought to be kept up. It is one most important method of keeping up, of preserving in all their freshness & power, of cultivating & strengthening the feelings of friendship, fraternal affection & communion, which are certainly the best part of our poor human nature. The cultivation of the [illegible] is not [illegible] important than that of the mind. The affectionate interchange of thoughts & feelings, of joys & sorrows, of [illegible] & pleasures, is the greatest, perhaps we might even say almost the only source of all the happiness we have, which is purely sublunary. The pleasures of sense alone are and must ever be to the thinking mind — worthless — in comparison at least. [illegible] [illegible] could hardly be called of this world [illegible]. They are so [illegible] with [illegible] which [illegible] hold [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] of [illegible].

Excuse this involuntary episode. I began upon the advantages of letter writing especially when [illegible] [illegible] subject to the mere expense, the [illegible], the [illegible] dimes, this [illegible] might not to be [illegible], even though it were much [illegible] than it is. Even the intellectual ad[illegible] [illegible] [illegible]. [illegible] postage comes down.

[illegible] [illegible] thing that you should write me a full, great letter, about yourself, and all about [illegible]. You know I have lived there more than a year, and [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] there. My correspondents [illegible] are not worth much, [illegible] [illegible] thing of [illegible]. J. G. Clark writes sometimes now, but you know his letters are not much—

I wish you could just put [illegible] in mind of his duty in the way of writing to me. (happen to mention receiving a letter from me,) I wondered he did not write & was hoping he would.

I see the school is larger than ever before. How is Miss Smith? Write me about every body I know, & every body I don't know. Who is that Chum of yours that talks politics so well? How does Francis Mitchell? & the class who will come in next fall? & D. Anderson & [illegible]? & old Chandler, Greely & Philbrick? [illegible], Prest &c. And the Ladies — do you not get acquainted with them? you ought to. There are many there whose acquaintance cannot but be profitable to any young man. If in any matter of conduct, I have cause to [illegible] my heart, it has been in keeping myself from the society & acquaintance of the better sex, too much. You had chance to get acquainted with Sarah Holmes & Mary Tower & others last spring, but did not much, and I fear do not now. I believe they [illegible] & Miss Carpenter & Hopkins & the Prentys & others. Remember, now is the proper time of life to form acquaintances, and friends for life. Do you know the fellows I wrote to Cochran? How is Mr. Parker this spring? I believe I must write to him soon. On what terms is Mr Tash with him now?

Is there any interest in the subject of Religion at Foxcroft, this spring?

We hope that the blessed Spirit of God has been granted to us somewhat here. There has been no excitement, but considerable seriousness, and it is hoped some souls born into the kingdom of God. About the time I returned, came one, who was much a rowdy last fall; he seemed very still, [illegible], and it was soon whispered that Thornton had experienced religion; soon that others were serious, several of the best fellows in College, & especially in our class. [illegible] Whiting, [illegible] the commanding officer at [illegible], who is about the handsomest fellow I ever knew, the idol of our class, without an enemy, beloved by every one, excelling in every thing too, and as every one said "so good"; he went mourning about for two or three weeks, punctual every where, but with a countenance of deepest distress. When he smiled again, the joy that beamed from his eye was eloquent indeed. Many could not help thinking, that if "the Major", as Whiting was always called, if he needed a change of heart, & was thus cast down for his sins, he who was, in the ideas of students "so good"; whom no one thought of ever having an ill feeling,

the best example of the amiability of the natural heart, what must be the case with others. It is hoped that some 4 or 5 others of our class have experienced a change of heart. and among others. Oh the goodness of God! That He should grant his Holy Spirit, & even convert sinners, when those who professed to be His servants were so far from him, so much stumbling-blocks in the way of those who would enter in.

The Lord has granted his Spirit again even to me. Oh how far, awfully far I was from him, even if I had ever known him. How much I needed his converting spirit! and still need it! I hardly know for how long I had not offered up one really sincere, hearty prayer to God. I do hope that God has converted me anew. Oh pray that these gracious influences may not be as the the morning cloud & the early dew alone, to my soul.

Joseph, will you not write me of your feelings. As brothers, as members of the same church, as both trying to trust in the same Redeemer of Sinners, we ought to be able to communicate our feelings freely to one another on every subject.

I get along pretty well in my studies. French is easy, but we study it thoroughly. Trigonometry is pretty. I like it well & dont get screwed. Rhetoric we have finished [illegible] did it "terribly". Homer, Greek, I dont like quite so well comes hard to me. We write themes once a fortnight, began this term. Declaim once a term.

There is considerable doing here. I suppose two about the most elegant buildings in the state, going up this summer. They have begun upon our chapel & there are some "acres of stones" in our yards. Chapel of solid stone. 130 feet long 7? feet wide, with ~~two solid towers in front [illegible]~~ [illegible] them to [illegible]. 2 Library rooms, 1 on end, and wings. The Chapel proper runs through between them — gothic, long, narrow, extremely high, magnificently lighted only from above — stained glass, gothic windows. Planned by the greatest architect in the U.S. Upjohn of N. York. Church by the same, it is close by us, corner of college grounds. The old one, is already pulled down, stood for 4? years [illegible]. first Commencement was held in it in 1806. Students [illegible] see it go. Their accommodations bad in it.

[illegible]. Got a bigger stack of [illegible] than [illegible]. [illegible]

Vacation is in about two weeks. I expect to stay here until I could find way to earn something, for my funds are low very. Guess I shall be out the fall term if I can find any way to get money. To look me a chance no matter what. School or any thing. I am ready for any thing. I shall be a "Junior" then, you know.

Write

J.L.M.

Mr. Joseph M. Metcalf
Foxcroft
Maine

10

'84 5.

Bowd. Coll. June 11th 1844.

Dear Brother

I was gratified by receiving a letter from you, with two others from Henry & [illegible], last Tuesday, June 11th, by the hand of C. S. Brown, for which please accept my heartiest thanks. As to your charge of "aggravated misconduct in neglecting to write," if I am obliged to plead guilty "de facto", I shall take the liberty to recommend myself strongly to mercy, on the ground that I was entirely ignorant where to direct a letter to you. I heard you had been at Bangor, were going to Oldtown, thought of going to Boston, might go to Portland, and I knew there was such a place as Milo. After receiving your letter, I [illegible] six [illegible] to the family at Milo & Bangor, and when I got back from Boston I wrote one on a very large sheet of wrapping paper 12 by 21 inches, and very well filled out too. You may consider yourself saved [illegible] a [illegible] that you did not have to read it. If you want to know about my visit to Boston however, Henry I believe read it & can tell you of it.

I am glad my letter arrived soon enough to prevent you from sending me any money by Brown, as on account of Mrs. Child's [illegible]ificence I got along pleasantly without it. I am very much [ob]liged to you for your good wishes & your kind intentions in taking [illegible] on my pecuniary necessities. I am getting along quite comfortably in such matters now, and I think prospects are fair for me to get along & get through now. I earned last term by [illegible] sawing & building fires &c. enough to pay my board & perhaps $3.00 more, and shall this term too I guess. I have been appointed Steward of our Boarding Club, which pays $5.00, & I [illegible] the boards in the Math.

Recitation Room in [illegible] $4.00 and I sawed some wood [illegible] $4.00. My board last term was only $10.25.

If I can get a school or in some way earn some money next fall, I think I can get along somehow another year. This term makes a year I have been here, & if I get rid of $26.25 of extra bill for advance standing, I can go away not more than $20.00 in debt! I can support myself here a year 3 terms for with less than $75.00 I believe, except clothes &c. There are many spend $300 to 5.00 per annum in all. I shall hate dreadfully to be absent next fall term. I want much to get a knowledge of German, & it is important I should. For that next fall is almost all important. As for your present situation I should think it a very good one, and advise you to keep it if possible. Aim to understand your business thoroughly & to suit your employers. As you have so good a chance open to you there, you had better give up your idea of getting business as a surveyor or Engineer, though I think you would succeed well at that, if you could only get into it which however is difficult & perhaps uncertain.

You will need to take especial care of your health, not being accustomed to so much confinement; not that you are in danger of losing your health, for your constitution is good, but confinement &c will detract from that robustness & hardihood of constitution which is a young man's best possession. Take out of doors exercise when possible. I advise you, every Sabbath afternoon, after Church, (in your situation), to walk, walk out into the Country, anywhere, walk 4 or 5 miles, say from 4 o'clock till 6. or 6 till 8, twill do you good, and your thoughts may be well employed.

Another thing I take the liberty to advise you, if you stay at Bangor, to pay attention to dress, dress well. I should advise you in one way & Elias in another; your cases are different. To you I say, dress well, like a gentleman. I don't say be extravagant, some are, but dress like a gentleman, not a dandy to a [illegible]

If you are a book keeper you are in a proper situation to dress well. Your Employers will like you the better, and it will be better for you every way. We have, I have, lost in that way; you will find it out. Set your Dress expenses at $100,00 per annum. Have good clothes, well made to fit you. Hunt or Gilligan, not Badger.
As for Eliab, it is very different; the character he is forming rests on a different basis. He is in a different business too. Let his clothes come from Milo. Have you yours made in Bangor. You may say I dont know much about affairs. if I have not much wit, I have some observation, and my advice hath wisdom!

You inquire about H. H. Boynton. I know him, but not much. Remember not of him, whereof to affirm now. If you would know, B. F. Brown, per Eliab.

I am glad Lucy has got a good school, I guess she will do well there. I want to hear from her. Eliab wrote that folks there told Confounded lies about me, plague 'em; they know better, a big sight. Not that I pro[illegible] to be a good teacher, I never did. but I keep school like th[illegible] as well as other folks, only I never pay so much about it, or make a fussi[illegible] Who finds fault, has an eye for wind, rather than essentials. Kick him! He w[illegible] find fault if he were to be hanged! As for my taxes, I never meant to pay it. perhaps Charles has or will, tell him better.

As to your Epic, go ahead. report progress. Your machine for Original Ideas would be very valuable here. How do you sell the right? cant you send a plan & description? I would give all my old shoes for one real good Original Idea. This is a fine market for the Commodity.

I weighed at Boston 167½ lbs. What sort is H. Stevens? Make a pretty good Bostonian? I hope you will write particularly all about yourself & Eliab. I want to know. Make Eliab write. Write often & much Postage descends you know. Buy thin paper. ½ oz. sheet. Tell Lucy to write. How often do you see her? I want to know her prosperity. I expect letters from this will be scarce now. So Write.

Your Brother, Isaac

Your ideas do me good every letter you write

(Do write, and write often. If there are three of you there at Bangor, I ought to get a letter from there about once a week especially past July 1st. I want to patronize Uncle Sam's bag bigger after that time. Can you find me something to do with the teachers box & earn money

We are studying Molière French. Horace Latin. Electra of Sophocles Greek. Analytic Geometry or application of Algebra to Geometry. It is called hard. The Mathematical studies here are very deep, but not practical. All the Surveying we had is one week last term, but Trigonometry, theory. One term is Application of Calculus.

I wish you & Henry could have the benefit of the libraries here, & time to read. It is just what, & all what you need. Elijah must read the up & down & study more. Do you find time and chance to read much? You dont know how much there is to read. I wish you could look over our libraries some. I mean to improve them more. If I had & had had a fair chance here, I certainly would do well. Others do so little would not be very hard. I do pretty well. I am thinking

Isaac

June 14 1845.)

If my letter is too much advising, give it back with interest. I think J. H. take good care of Uncle as well as yours & make a man of him a good one.

Get acquainted with folks.

Wm. M. Metcalf

Mr. Joseph W. Metcalf
Bangor
Maine

N S [illegible] ff ff

Bowd. Coll., July 4th 1845

Dear Brother

I was gratified the other day, Wed. July 2d by receiving a letter from you. It was, to me, the first fruits of the new postage law. It was of course but single postage, 5 cents. The new postage depends only on the weight. If in twenty pieces a letter is only single postage if it weighs less than 1/2 oz. The heaviest letter paper you ever saw probably does not weigh over 5/16 oz So you can always send 1 1/2 sheets single. Such paper as this I think 2 sheets. At any rate they have letter paper advertised 4 & 5 sheets to the 1/2 oz. It pleases students finely to receive letters containing a fine fold of bank bills at single postage. Many such came preparatory to the glorious Fourth. The students are about half gone today, some to Boston, some to Portland, Saco and every where else in this part of the State. More are here perhaps for the rain yesterday, but most of them will go this afternoon over to Topsham, down to Harpswell, or to the salt water or somewhere. I, for poverty, expect to remain here.

There is to be a grand fair, young Ladies fair, here, this eve. Object to help build the new church. I shall make an excuse for not attending that, being for such a purpose, it is held in a hall belonging to a Rum Tavern. There was one last term in Commons Hall; but I went not.

Your letter was quite interesting, but some part of it related more to your business, private, & auction sales, commissions, consignments, and so forths than to yourself, circumstances and feelings, or the state of your brethren. Not to say that the former was not interesting to me; anything whatever connected with you or your circumstances

must of course be interesting to me, and gratefully received; but I should have been glad to hear more particularly about your own circumstances and prospects. Besides you did not even mention Eliab. I want to know how he gets along as well as yourself, in every respect. Why is it that the young scamp does not write to me, I should like to know. I wonder how many letters I have written to him; I am thinking I'll not write him again, till after he writes me a good fair letter.

— I should think Lucy might write, too. She appears to be growing rather remiss in that respect. Since this new Postage law comes into operation, one ought to write about twice as many letters, to patronize U.S. if nothing else.

I have been off today & had a fine swim. We have to go a mile or two, or 2, to find the river here, or bay either, salt water. I swam today much a good way, off to an island perhaps 50 rods and back; the water was very cold too, just after the great rain, but I felt all the better for it. By the way my health is first rate. I never was better, tougher or healthier, perhaps fatter than this summer. You & Eliab must take care of your health. It is the most important of all things to young men. Take out of door exercise, if possible.

I was to hear so much account of your business. I suppose you write most of the time, do you not? What else? How do you like? What are your wages? and prospects? and [illegible]?

What do you mean by your reflections upon the Athenaean Society? Please to consider that they are decidedly personal. Besides what do you know about the aforesaid board of officers? or other members of said Soc.? Please to consider it hereafter as the greatest and best of all literary societies, always excepting a certain secret 'ΔΚΕ'., or Delta Kappa Epsilon, the badge of which you may perhaps sometime see!

Your remarks upon infinities &c, I take it, are the production of your "would be" or should be celebrated "Machine for Original Ideas". I judge the machine may be a valuable one, but it strikes me, that like Sam Slick's machine for "Original Poetry", it needs finishing. The manufactured article seems to lack polish. However the sample you gave was perhaps hardly sufficient to form an opinion upon.

We had a [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] about three weeks since which it has been very remarkably cold. Must kept fires in me. It has also been very dry indeed. I think crops must have suffered much by the united cold & drought. Wed. & Thurs. however we had a splendid rain I expect it will be warmer after it. The hay in the College grounds was cut last week. The object of cutting so early is to have it spring again before Commencement, & then cut it again in fall.

This term is called the hardest in the four years course, Fall of Sophomore year. We study Analytic Geometry, or Application of Algebra to Geometry, by Prof. Smith, called the hardest of all Mathematics. I dont think it so very, yet at least, however.

In French we are reading Molière, Plays. & writing French
In Greek, Electra, of Sophocles, an old Greek Tragedy, and esteemed very hard, though, as all use pony's as they are called, translations it is not so killing hard. By the way I think the use of translations, that is proper use, is beneficial. [illegible] &c, notwithstanding

What are your circumstances in a pecuniary point of view. How would it probably comport with your convenience to send me V or X some 6 or 8 weeks hence, if I should happen to need it & send you a request therefor? before Commencement. I may need it.

Please write soon & particularly, tell Eliab to write, & Lucy I am waiting to receive a letter from her before writing. Write immediate I will try to write a better letter both for matter & penmanship again

Write

Your Aff Brother Isaac

Did Eliab get my umbrella left at Bangor House last spring?

111

Isaac
July 26/45

5

Mr Joseph W. Metcalf
Care of Goss & Upham
Bangor Maine

Bristol Coll., July 17/45

Dear Brother

I have written a very full letter to Lucy which I enclose to you, for you to forward to her as soon as convenient. Your last letter came safe to hand yesterday. It was a first rate one well filled & in all respects valuable. For it you have my heartiest thanks, & you shall receive a more extended answer soon than I can spare time or have room to write at the present time, so you may consider this with the one to Lucy as an answer and write again.

The new postage law has been beneficial to me at any rate since July 1st I have received three letters for five cents each which by the old law would have been 25 each.

As for pecuniary matters I think I can get along & get some, & without any, if I can come back next term. I have considerable tin & "rags" in my possession, in my official capacities of Steward of Boarding Club, and as Treasurer of Ath. Soc. & you know bills are payable next term. I would certainly be here next term if I could come back here with 20,00 and a new coat.!

I am very much obliged to you for papers. I wish you would tell Elial about writing to me and the importance of improving his time. I should think you might talk to him well on that score if any body. I want to tell you [illegible] on the importance of your dressing yourself, dressing yourself Well. Brother

My Chum is sick & gone to Pittsburg, may be back tomorrow though

Isaac
July 13 '45

5

Mr. Joseph McMillan
Care of Messrs. Goss & Upham
Bangor Maine

The corner stone of our new Chapel is to be laid
on Wed. next with the highest Masonic honors.
Encampments of Free Masons in Stamstead [?] had to be
one from Portland, Boston & every where
A hospital and for them to march under.

Bowd Coll July 28th /45

Dear Brother,

I sent letters to you & Lucy, about a week ago; but perhaps the one to you was hardly an equivalent for the last I received from you; therefore, as the late ceremonies of laying the corner stone of the new chapel afford a pretty good theme of communication, I will try to write a letter today, and give you some account of them. The corner stone of the Chapel was laid on Wednesday, July 16th, with Masonic honors. I think likely it is the first (I don't know it) great public building which has been thus founded since the great excitement against Masonry some years ago, which apparently destroyed the whole system, though now it seems showing itself again in full vigor.

It was done probably in in honor of Ex. Gov. King, who has given $6000,00 towards the building; and who was the first Grand Master of the Grand Lodge of Maine. It was a pleasant day & the number of people present at the ceremonies was very large, from Boston, Portland &c. The Whole Order of Knights Templars were present with their regalia, insignia, and made a splendid appearance. The students, with government of the College &c. &c. formed a procession and received the Masons as they came onto the College grounds through a triumphal arch erected for the occasion, then escorted them around the grounds to the Chapel, where a platform had been prepared and all accommodations for seats for thousands around the fated Corner.

It would be a hard matter describe the appearance of the Masons or their dress, with its numberless strange emblems & devices. All however had a sort of large cloth gilt & figured collar round their necks; All too wore aprons, such aprons, those of the Grand Lodge of Maine were rounded, about a foot across perhaps, most of them of white silk, all figured off with various significant emblems. In my idea they are compounded of almost every thing, every sort of superstition. I noticed in many of them, the cipher of the three triangles run in one, which you know was a favorite emblem of the ancient Jews. The grand chaplain wore a breastplate, I should think just like that of the Jewish High Priest. 12 stones set in squares. Other emblems seemed to refer to or partake of the old Greek & Roman superstitions.

But the Templars beat all the rest. They wore cocked hats their breastplates & a aprons of triangular cloth ornamented with abundance of gold & silver, with rich scarfs &c. &c. Every one had on his front two silver daggers crossed, below that a silver skull and silver cross bones, with gold & silver stars &c. on the shoulders and sashes. I should think their dress cost several hundred dollars each; a large part of them are Boston men rich old Boys, I warrant. And about the finest looking set of men I ever saw. All large, finely formed men, and not one among them all who would not be called a handsome man, any where. Their order is military & religious; their beautiful banners bore the motto of the ancient knights of the temple, or knights of Jerusalem the knights Templars of Chivalry & the Crusades. It is a crucifix with the motto of Constantine "In hoc Vinces" By this conquer. For the military part they carried drawn swords &c. &c.

When arrived upon the spot. Our Rex, that is Dr. Woods appeared on the platform all in his robes and Commencement Cap, I wish you could

see him once. He read chapter & made remarks as to the occasion very pertinently. Prayer by Dr. Wright of Portland. Then Prex made a speech upon Masonic honors, long custom of doing things so, wishes of patrons &c &c. finally committing the business to the Grand Lodge of Maine.

Then followed the Masonic Ceremonies, which were long, somewhat imposing, some silly tho' though. The Most Worshipful Grand Master of Maine Hon J. C. Payne presided. Old Gov. Dunlap of Brunswick, Worshipful Grand Master of Ceremonies. The Worshipful Grand Secretary with two great gilt goose quill pens crossed on his breast, the worshipful grand Treasurer & grand Chaplain with their various insignia &c. After lots of ceremonies, a box containing Bible, Constitutions of U.S. & Maine, Laws of Bowdoin, Catalogues, Society Catalog &c and two silver plates, one belonging to the College with a Latin inscription and one by the Masons unknown, was placed in a cavity of the corner stone, which with various ceremonies was then laid in its place by the united exertions of the Masons, and Mr Barney McGuire, the R. G. Master workman of the building. It was then measured & tried with much solemnity, and the tools, splendid water level & square passing through the hands of various functionaries, formally delivered over, with an address & charge, to the aforesaid B. McGuire, as his part of the spoils. The Grand Treasurer & his assistant then emptied upon the stone, first a golden goblet of Wheat, called the 'corn of nourishment'; then a silver one of wine, called the 'wine of refreshment', another of oil called the 'oil of joy'. These with various speeches & ceremonies. Consecrating Prayer by the Grand Chaplain, a Masonic hymn, various beating upon the stone, with various dumb signs & motions of the hands &c. When the Grand Marshall finally made proclamation that the Corner Stone of King Chapel was founded in 'ample form' &c. A first rate 'address' was then then delivered by Hon Charles S. Daveis of Portland the Orator of the Day.

The Address of Davies contained a beautiful Apostrophe to the Old Chapel, a little, black, time worn wooden building, right [illegible] the Orator, under his [illegible], as he was placed upon a part of the rising wall of the New Chapel. Also a learned historical description of the Architectural style of the New Chapel, and finally a very thick eulogy upon [illegible] [illegible] [illegible], [illegible] [illegible] present. [illegible] [illegible] well done indeed, but seemed to me he put it on a little too thick. It looked a little as if he wished to speak for another six thousand from the Old Man.

The Masons went off as they came escorted by the Students &c through the College grounds, with Nine Cheers at last. On the Whole it was quite a time. There were three or four Brass Bands present from Boston & Portland, which discoursed most eloquent music, in abundance.

One thing I thought looked not very well, for such noble looking men as those Templars were, with such a display and the religious character which the order pretends to, some of them got behind the fence, during the exercises, and guzzled flasks of old Whiskey & Cogniac finely; and it was said some of them got pretty drunk down town afterwards. [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] the laugh [illegible] one of the [illegible] [illegible] standing by the side of his own Grand Chaplain of the Order of Templars, Rev. McWillz, a great portly man, Episcopal Minister in Boston, who stood by reproving him not.

However it may have a good effect upon the interests of the College, if it does not make enemies elsewhere, it will secure the favor, influence & patronage of these Rich old Freemasons who will be after sending their sons here.

[illegible] [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] with this [illegible] [illegible],

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I have got about $1,00 now. I shall get $4 or 5,00 in a week or two for sawing wood. Whether I can get along or not I hardly know. I ought to buy some furniture of the class who are about to graduate, I need some & could get it cheap at this time before they leave. I [illegible] get along [illegible] than usual with this term's bill, due Oct. As Steward of the Boarding club, I have $5,00 on my Board Bill. As Treasurer of Ath. Society my own Society Bills are my perquisites of Office. I have $4,00 for care of Mathematical Room allowed me. My Chum is sick and gone away, while I ring the bell for him; if he does not return, I shall have it which is about $8,00 or 8,50.

I may perhaps get a dollar or two by sale of my Sophomore Books But I ought to spend 8 or 10,00 immediately for Junior Books.

I had a letter from Mr. Tash this morning, in answer to one I wrote him lately. I wrote something about going there this fall if he wanted me. He wrote that he should like much to have me come there, but it seems that he could not do much for me. Holbrook it appears I guess is engaged to help him some, and he wants me there too. It would be probably some advantage to him to have me there, make the School popular, Name on the Catalogue two assistants, &c &c &c

I hardly know as it will be best for me to go there though although it would be very pleasant. It is a more pleasant place on many accounts than College, and I should know how to enjoy it, better perhaps than I did there before. But you see my tuition and room rent are going on here just the same as if I were present. That would be about $12,00 perhaps more. It would cost me no more for clothes here than there, and I could earn something, perhaps most

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as much as I should there, $ 10 or 15,00 probably, enough to pay my board, and possibly I might not do much better there. On the whole I think that if I cannot get a good school somewhere, where I could get $ 100,00 perhaps, that I had better come back here and spend the fall term. I shall, if I can get, by any means, twenty or thirty dollars to come back with. It will be much better for me in many respects, not that I think I stand much chance of getting a "Junior Part", though I might if I had been here Freshman year, but my standing will be better in College, and in Society, besides the advantage of studying German, this fall.

What is the state of Elliott with regard to Money? Does he spend all his wages in Clothes? he ought not to. Ed Brown say he is getting to dress? "Frank will teach him to dress." With you it is different, it would be much more proper for you spend $ 100,00 or 150,00 (some say $ 300,00) in dress, this year; than for him to spend $ 50,00 besides what he has from home. He ought to spend no more than $ 25,00 this year besides that.

I dont think hardly that I shall take pains to write him any more letters to ask why he dont write to me. I have written two or three unanswered. Tell him to write, for his own benefit as well as mine. I am afraid he dont improve his time very well. I should think you could convince him of it, and of the importance of. Your Example ought to influence him. Strange how nothing but Experience, bitter experience, can effect us. If he could see the value of a right training & discipline of the mind. A mind

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taught to think for itself, to think its own thoughts instead of the thoughts of other minds. the nobility of such a mind a true nobility greater than all riches, dress, manners every thing else but religion, that this world has.
Elijah might have a good sound noble character & mind happy satisfying to himself to himself, useful honorable in the world. It would be worth $1000,00 to me if I had your sound well disciplined & regulated, patient mind. Not that I mean to flatter you. At any rate. I do beseech of him not to read Bulwer, D'Israeli & James. or Paul D'Kock, Sue, even Cooper & Marryatt. Much most the trash novels of the newspapers, magazines, & pamphlets. There is so much better reading, that that is as interesting to a cultivated mind, refining and humanising to the taste and character. I would not blame him for reading Shakespeare, only he cant appreciate it, or Scott or W. Irving the poetry of Mrs Hemans, Sigourney, and hundreds of others, to say nothing of those old golden writers like Milton, Addison, Burke. &c &c
By the way Joseph you ought to read Shakespeare, some of the Tragedies at least. I should think you might both of you get books, such as you wished there. Lucy is I suppose almost in a state of intellectual starvation, now a days. Lend her a book occasionally if you can.
I believe I have written considerable, if I have not said much. Excuse it. Also the omission of your infinities you see there is not room. I will think of them.
Where do you board? How do you like &c &c? Go & see Lucy
Please write soon & particularly often & tell Elijah.
Excusez Moi Affectionately J. S. H Brother.

Bowd Coll. Aug. 7th, 1845.

Dear Brother

I received your letter day before yesterday. I have just written a letter to Sister Lucy in answer to one I received a while since, and believe I shall enclose it to you, As it is just as cheap, and perhaps she would get it more conveniently from you than if directed to herself.

I have about concluded to stay here this fall at any rate, it will be a great advantage to me at any rate, in many respects, and I had better stay here somehow, if I cannot get a chance to earn considerable somewhere, to help me along another year, and I dont see as I am likely to.

I should like now to be here at the beginning of the next term and stay a spell, if no more than four weeks, if I could then get a winter school to begin by the first of Nov. so as to end by the beginning of the spring term, it would just exactly suit me.

Our Examination is three weeks from last Wednesday Aug 6th, but my business, as Treasurer of Athenaean, and Steward of Boarding Club, require, rather imperiously, my presence here Commencement week or I should come home then. If I go home it will be Sept. 5th, getting into Bangor Sat, Sept 6th, probably. I dont know but it would be better than to stay, even the three weeks, and would cost less, if I could find nothing to do to earn any thing here. I was not anxious about Eliab, but your own, please you. Thank Eliab for his letter, & will write him soon.

Excuser is your verb. At some rate I must have, 25,00 this vacation besides a Coat & a hat, which I need before Com but can do without. Please write soon again good bye

BRUNSWICK
AUG
7

5

Mr Joseph M. Metcalf
Bangor
Maine

Isaac
Aug 7 1845

Excuse this letter
written in 15 min
Brother

Bowd. Coll. Aug. 21st 1845

Dear Brother

You know I had concluded to go home in the approaching vacation; and then come back next term and stay a spell, trusting to get a good winter school, and get along somehow.

Well I have about concluded since then that I would teach this fall. I believe I wrote to Eliab the other day, something about the chance. It is in Turner, some 25 or 30 miles from here; a high School, paid by a fund belonging to the town, so there is no trouble collecting, as in a private school. School not more than 50, none under 12 or over 21 of age, Studies every thing. Wages $20,00 per Month, time 3 months ——— $60,00

Wages most too low. I wrote once $25,00 per month, received a letter yesterday that said 20, again. Commence Monday after Commencement or Monday September 8th, till last of Nov.

It certainly is not a very bad chance, and in my circumstances and poverty, I suppose it would not do to refuse it, though I hate dreadfully to be out this fall, on many accounts.

There are many reasons why I wish to be here this fall, on my own account, for my class rank for the German; for my interest & aid in Societies.

If I stay out I can earn $ 60,00 and be ready to commence a winter school about 4 weeks before our fall term here closes, so as to teach a school of three months before Spring term commences. Should probably clear some $ 100,00 or more, before our term commences. On the other hand my expenses here are going on if I am absent, some 12, or 15, dolls besides. if here I might probably earn some 8 or 10 dolls extra. Last term I earned here in one way & another about $ 14,00, This term I shall some 15, or 16, dolls Next term I probably might nearly pay my board & Soc. bills leaving only term bill some 15, or 20, dolls

I do hate wretchedly to stay out. it seems a pity if I do go to College, & it costs something money & time both! to lose its advantages, any of them, especially a very important term like this. Still others stay out, many others, without better chances than this, not needing money any more than I do. One can do it and get along pretty comfortably, maintain a pretty good stand in their class. I suppose I must. & Try

If I go to Turner the worst is I can not go home. Should not get home till next June at any rate, perhaps not till a year from this approaching vacation Sept. Spring vacation is only two weeks. I want to go home bad, but I can stay away I suppose, if necessary.

If I was sure of just the right school for Winter, that is if I had one of four month, beginning the first of November so as to get through by beginning of Spring term, and 25,00 or even 20,00 per month, I would not look towards Turner. but 's uncertain.

In fact I must any where or way

If I go to Turner, I must have some clothes, for the first thing. Coat, Hat, boots, pants, &c say $15,00 to $25,00 worth, at any rate. I believe I shall write to Turner today that I will go there. And the next thing is that at least $25,00 appears absolute, to be got in hands as soon as Sept. 4th or 5th at any rate. How can it be obtained? I have this day written to Milo upon the same matter. If Charles or the folks at home cannot get hold of it, could you and Eliab, any way contrive to get it for me, if you have it yourselves, lend it to me, or if not borrow it for me for three months? I shall have you see $60,00 in three months to pay it with.

If Charles happens to sell his Colt, he could let me have it If Lucy get through her school so soon, she could lend, [illegible] perhaps $10 or dozen dollars.

If you and the folks at home, Mother & Charles, should really think that I had better not go to Turner that I can borrow or get a little money this fall and stay here and do as well as I can for a winter school, and trust Providence for next year &c &c. then I wish you would all write immediately and I will be sick or frightened or something or other, and tell them I cant go to Turner, & go home Vacation, and best I can. Otherwise, endeavor to send me 25, dollars for three months, afterwards if I have my health and God add his blessing, I can get through College. in some shape or other, by my own scratchings.

In one case, please write, as soon as possible, in the other by next week Sept 4th at least. Excuse this from your Brother Isaac.

It seems in my view hardly worth awhile to be out of bill if one can borrow money and pay it much easier after graduating. Give advise J. S. M.

Mr. Joseph M. Metcalf
Bangor
Maine

BRUNSWICK Me. AUG 21

5

Isaac
Aug 21/48

I have bought a watch of Carey & Co, here, to pay $17,00 in three months. Chum bought one for $33,00

Bowd Coll. Aug 31st, 1845.

Dear Brother

I received your most welcome letter yesterday. It was welcome as your letters always are, and also as it contained twenty five dollars, which I much needed, and for which I am very much obliged to you. I will enclose the note you desired. You shall have the money in about 3 months.

I have not been at Church this Afternoon, but have slept near three hours instead. I am not exactly well. In the first place I had a bad cold before Examination, was out night to the Prize Declamations &c. &c. Wed. our Examination was very cold & rainy. We had to sit for 8 hours right off, on those hard (usually stand studying) awful seats, in the Chemical Lecture room to be 'screwed' & bored by a set of jackasses. When I got out with my 'Junior ticket', didn't my head ache some? Eh? However I laid down and got asleep for an hour or two, got up, felt better, Went to the Class Supper. 8 or 9 oclock till past 12. Then walked half doz miles & talked some, to work it off. Bed at 3 till 9. Got up pretty —, Invited by Bradbury to go up to Lewiston, 20 Miles, with him, take carriage back, no Expense. Jumped right in, without eating — Eat at Lewiston 4 clock. Lewiston is beautiful place, falls & most picturesque I ever saw. rambled about, came home in evening. Thursday, Freshman ~~Exhibition~~ Examination. Eve. their Supper. Freshman Bonfire, Quarrell with Prof Smyth about it. It did not get to burning till past 3. I went to bed at 5 oclock, slept two hours. Great Excitement all day in the trials of the Mutinous Freshmen. Friday night, could not sleep well for certain Abdominal pains, and sweats

all over. Last night slept first rate, got up a new feller felt first rate & quite well. But this afternoon attacked with a pain in the side, hurts me some, but will probably get over it by tomorrow. I have got a coat for $13.00, a hat for 3.00. After this week direct letters to me, to Turner or Turner Village, and write frequently besides, do'ye hear?

I received a letter from Mike on Aug. 23^d, from you on the 25^th, and another on the 30^th.

As for your passage Mat 16 22 & 23. And Peter took him and began (επιτιμαν) to blame, or reproach, or sometimes in N.T. strictly enjoin him, saying, Be favorable to thyself, Lord; this will by no means be (simple future, strong negation) to you. But he having turned round, said to Peter, (Υπαγε) steal away, or withdraw, or go away, (Οπισω) behind (nothing else) me, Satan (call to suit yourself), (σκανδαλον μου ει) you are my stumbling block, or cause of offence; because you understand (φρονεις) not the things of God, but the things of men. I know no better translation of φρονεις, than understand, you see it differs from our version, also last of 22 verse.

The word Υπαγε, Upage, imp. of Upagō, I think is not susceptible of the meaning, follow, or come after. I have no critical knowledge of N.T. Greek, but if it was so used even there, my Lexicon would show [illegible] has no 10^th verse! It is a familiar passage, but I have no Concordance at hand, & dont find it. John 3. 18 & 19^th verses together contain something like those words. The words rendered judge and condemn, judgment & condemnation, are Greek noun Κρισις, and verb Κρινω. seem susceptible of both meanings. I am not critical enough, especially on Bible greek to decide. Our word Cri-tic is [illegible] the same however. The exact original meaning appears to be the act of decision, passing sentence, trying as a Judge.

I am ashamed to send such a [illegible] but I can not stop to write another. I go to Turner tomorrow Sept 13 with a Turner fellow who is here. Commencement is over, I can not stop soon [illegible] Busy [illegible]

Sept. 1st

I think you ought to spend some of your money for clothes. You will not lose any thing by dressing well pretty. Your Employers and every body else will like you better for it. Ann, I suppose will give you plenty of advice on that point. I feel better today than I did yesterday, have pretty much got rid of the pain in my side. I am getting over my cold.

I sent a bundle by E.M. Rich. Have you got it? It contained a lot of rags, a pair of my coarse shirts which I do not need, having plenty more of the same sort and enough to keep me till next spring, and also my thin coat. I gave $3,00 for it in Boston, and have worn it ever since about constantly. I thought I would not carry it to Turner. The cloth is very enduring; the making you sent some time back, it would do one of you some service, I guess it would fit, it is small for me. It is neat setting and pretty fashion. Very fashionable as season coats I believe. I sent some pants I got shaved on. I gave $1,00 [illegible] for both; thought they were worth that if any thing, they were worth nothing! though I have worn them considerable some.

I enclose a note written as I think is about fair considering all things. If however you do not like it, you may write another [illegible] and I will sign here to match. I have considerable business on my hands this week; you need not infer from your knowledge & experience of my 'business propensities', that I can not, & do not, perform it in shape. Business being thus entrusted to me shows the opinion of others on that point.

I suppose you know that I am a 'Junior'. My Summer Term bill is $17,48. Tuition 8, Room 3,34. Average 1,04 at which all grumble for there has been no damage this term hardly. Sundries &c 3,35. Ath treat 1,00, Class supper, 75.

BRUNSWICK ME.
SEP
5

5

Mr Joseph W. Metcalf
Bangor
Maine

Isaac
Aug. 31/45

Turner. Sept. 12th 1845

Dear Brother

Why do you not write; I am impatient to hear from 'down east', not being permitted to go there. You know how long time always seems in a new place. Though to be sure I find myself very pleasantly situated here, ~~with every prospect of getting acquainted, and moreover pleasant~~ ly so. You cannot imagine how good a school I have got. I have been here just a week now. I wrote to you, if I remember right, just before I left Old Bowdoin, perhaps that will answer for an account of Commencement &c. I was about sick awhile, but got better. I came up here Friday, Sept 5th. I expected to be obliged to hire a carriage & hoss to get here; but 'Life' or Eliphalet, son of the celebrated 'Parson Greely' was down there, and most joyfully brought me up, finding that I was 'the Master'. He carried me right to 'Old Parson Greely's', where I staid Saturday, and Lizzy is a fine girl too. Parson Greely, the rest of the family except two children, was gone to Boston. 'Parson Greely' is a rather eccentric old man, has been the minister of the Old Parish in Turner for 30 or 40 years. The Proprietors of Turner gave land, forming certain funds amounting to $350.00 per annum, for Ministerial, and $200.00 for a School fund. There is no telling the advantages of such a fund to a town. It is a fact, the possession of priveliges enables to appreciate them to appreciate, to deserve them. This fund supports two schools for three months every fall, high schools, none under 12 ever permitted. Teacher has the right of casting out the youngest to leave only 50 if he choose. I have 60 to 70, almost all between 15 or 14 & 21. All those you know who have attended high school

of this kind every fall for a long time; and they have been extremely fortunate in having good teachers and good schools. Wm H. Seavey who has taught this school two years, and who sent me here, was extremely popular, very fine fellow, quite talented lik'd every where. By the way, it is a very great advantage to succeed good and popular teachers: people get in the habit of liking & praising every thing, instead of finding fault with every thing. The people here too found a very striking personal resemblance between me and my friend Seavey, in fact half of them call me Seavey yet. They appear determined to like me, and will in spite of my self. It is just the school for me, if I cannot suit here I won't any where. No small scholars. All <u>knowing</u> the importance of learning and going to school for that purpose. I have one class in Latin, 3 in French, one of them really knowing about as much & having read more than I have, though my College Education is complete on that head, and I studied quite thoroughly. Class 12 or 15 Smyths Algebra, many of them having already studied it thoroughly, more so than I have, though to be sure I have gone rather farther in Math. Classes in Colburns & Baileys Classes of 12 to 20 or more reviewing Smyths & the <u>celebrated</u> Welch's Arithmetic; As good classes in Philosophy & Chemistry, Astronomy & as ever at Foxcroft Academy. Classes in Abercrombie & Upham, thorough ones too, Worcesters History, Parkers Exercises & Splendid Grammar class, 30 or 40 good grammarians, &c. It is a Splendid school. You never saw so good so well disposed, <u>or</u> so <u>handsome</u> a school at Foxcroft, for the number. I board 1/2 mile from the School house, 7 of my scholars, coming from distant parts of the town you know, board at Deacon Dressers, where I do more or less at every house in the neighborhood. Worse yet, all like the Master! School is very full. Teacher has right to turn out all over 50 not usually exercised. I cant, good scholar, come to learn, behave & study, too great pleasure to have such scholars to drive 'em off. I hear 2 or 3 classes out of school hours, though not expected 6 hours. only 20, per month,

I happened to be very lucky in my situation here. Most of the town are Universalists, all the most influential part nearly. But I am placed first in the Old Parish, where all the Congregationalists are found most. Most people here have been opposed to every thing religious in schools the Universalists oppose even the reading Scriptures in schools; it has not been practiced in any form, for some years. I hardly knew what to do about it. I have been told since by professors of Religion that they would at first have advised me to omit it. However, I finally concluded and the second day, (only organised the first) I prefaced a few remarks and opened the school with reading a chapter and prayer. By good providence I happened first to take well; perhaps because I looked like Isaac, the whole 'pile of gals' happened to like me, some, of course, were better pleased; none hardly much worse: and the school seems much liked by all indiscriminately, as far as I hear, and people tell me so.

The Universalist Minister, Mr. Bates, he is one of their 'big guns' [in] the whole state, and I expect a very fine man, lives next house to school house. His daughters, two noble great girls, and really splendid scholars too, go to school and are much interested. Mr Bates appears interested in the school. Much pleased with my introduction of some new books, Burritts Astronomy &c. So far I hear none but favorable reports of the school. I think my course here in reading the scriptures has a favorable effect, and will have. People here think so, though they thought it a dangerous experiment at first.

Wed. 17th. I received a couple of papers from you this morning. Why do you not write? It is some time since I have heard from down east. Do write. As for your 'infinites', I pray your pardon and forbearance. I will devote a season to the investigation by the aid of Smyth, & Bourdon, Calculus if I had it, and give you the results in my next, if possible. Till then Excuse Brother Isaac S. H.

Mr. Joseph M. Metcalf
Bangor
Maine

Tunnelee(?)
Sept 18th

5

Isaac
Sep 12/45

Turner Lower Street, Oct. 5, 7th 1845

Dear Brother

I received your letter, with much pleasure, on Tuesday last. 30th Ult. I was beginning to be almost provoked at your so long silence. It seems a long while since your last letter; time, you know always seems longer, when one has just gone in a new place among strangers. The first two days I was here seemed longer than the last week, and the four weeks I have now been here longer than twice the time at College.

What do you mean by, Is your watch good for anything?! Would I give $20,00 for a poor watch. It is the handsomest, Lepine Watch you ever saw, beyond all question, or any body else. A perfect beauty. I suppose I ought perhaps to have bought a Patent Lever like Churn & others. Perhaps mine is just as good for a year or two, but a Lepine does not endure like a full jewelled Lever. a $32,00 one. It is of course as regular as Father Time himself. Mrs. Dresser threw a brush on it & broke the Crystal, a week ago sent it to Portland, got another, cost $,62½, not half so pretty as the other, though it will not break so easy, both perfectly flat. first no rise even from the very edges.

As for your Infinities. Arithmetically, $3/9 = 333$—

Algebraically, $x = \frac{a}{0}$, Geometrically $y = \frac{B'}{A'}x$

Which last is a true infinity. A & B' being being the 2 diameters of a hyperbola, and of course neither of them having but one end! if indeed either of them have as many as one end!

The Equation is that ~~that~~ of the Asymptotes of a hyperbola

which are are straight lines, which the hyperbola, being a double and endless curve, continually, and eternally approaches, but never, meets!
I suppose you understand the whole subject now, dont you?
However, I suppose, joking apart, that you intended, in your enquiries, Metaphysical, rather than Mathematical, infinities. But, the truth is, I have studied Mathematics, and my Metaphysical Education does not commence till next year. I am not a great Mental Philosopher, though I have several scholars in such branches. And the fact is, for your questions, I never thought of such subjects, and I dont know — I hardly know how to begin to think on such a subject. It is an opinion I have heard that if the smallest particle of matter were annihilated, it would destroy the infinity & Equilibrium of the Universe; but the idea does not seem reasonable to me. I do not so understand infinity. to be sure I cant conceive really of the effect it would have to cut off a large or a small piece from the end of an Asymptote, when it has no end! The very definition of an infinite quantity shows you dont know how much it is, of course if you take away any known quantity whatever, you dont know how much remains, if you did you would know the first quantity! What reasoning is that?
Finally I believe I shall conclude to believe in the infinity of infinity. Astronomers record the apparent combustion and loss of fixed stars, & consider it the extinction of a whole system, yet methinks infinity remains. If some could be lost, could not more? if it be infinity.

It is Sabbath day. Rev Mr Eddy gone to Mass. Deacon Meeting!
Old Deacon Dresser frightened me summat wen he called upon Mr. Metcalf to come out before the great Congregation, (being a rainy day, it warnt awful big though!) and read the Sermon. Howsomever it wouldn't do for the Master to be bashful, if his knees did tremble! However they all said I preached better than the Deacon some,

I suppose when one writes a letter, it is necessary to tell the news. - Well Miss Eliz. Greely has got home from Portland! Miss Carey & Miss Cushing & Miss Bradford & Miss True & Miss Bates &c. &c. &c. are at home, & probably are well! By the way, it is a little interesting to be an entirely uninterested spectator, and witness manœuvering among Old Ladies sometimes! However there are certainly some very fine young Ladies here, And Miss E. Greely is certainly [illegible] of them! So is Miss Carey, & so is — & so is, [illegible]

My School [illegible] is first rate, but I suppose I bored you enough with account of that in my last. Yesterday was no school, a loafing day. In a fortnight I am going to Brunswick one day, then school is ½ done, get 36,00 wages then too, pay some debts,

You dont hear from Mile very often, I dont hardly at all, Have had one letter, since I came here, but they had not written for so long and there was so much to write, they did not write half. I knew not till your letter whether Ann was in Bangor or Boston. Never knew of Charles driving steers to Bangor. You had not informed me of that other thing or of any thing else. ~~that has taken place since aw~~ July sometime, & worse yet nobody else has! Why should S. M. B. Butters be disappointed at Georgia? What is J. G. Rickers situation? What are Eliab's prospects? And your Aunt? And the rest of the folks? Letter from Chum at College yesterday. O dear the lessons! Please to write, and often, once if fortnight, & tell Eliab to

25. —

P. L. M.

Isaac
Oct 5/45

by J. M. Metcalf

Goss & Upham

Turner Oct.
Rec 6th

5

Mr. Joseph M. Metcalf
Bangor
Maine

Miss O. K. Furber

Mr. J. M

Metcalf

Miss O. K

I should like to know whether Lucy goes to Bangor or not! Wonder if it will take me as long to find out whether Ann were in Bangor or Boston.

Turner. Nov. 17th 1845.

Dear Brother

I received your last letter, dated at Milo, the first of this month, and intended to have answered it before, but have delayed it.

I was glad to hear that you had been at Milo, though sorry that your visit was occasioned by ill health. The fact is, as I wrote to you last summer, you do not take exercise enough in the open air; you must try to do better in that respect. I think; I know how it is exactly, you don't feel like it, and, the less exercise you take, the less you feel inclined to take.

But let me advise you to make an effort to take some vigorous exercise, in the open air, even if you don't like it. It is really necessary for your health, more necessary for you, than it is for many others around you, those city chaps perhaps who have been brought up in indolence, or a large proportion of Country chaps, lazy fellows, sent into the store, 'cause they would not work &c. You now have long been habituated to labor, constant & vigorous labor, which habit, besides its naturalness, requires it. Such changes of habits, of whole constitutions or systems of existence are not to be made with impunity.

I will send you that money, if I can get the bills changed, as I have it now by me, and can get along very comfortably, I think, till Spring. What I shall do for money, next June, & August, I yet know not.

The building a new School house in Bangor, seems to me of very doubtful expediency. Will it not cost twice your estimates? Is the school a sufficiently permanent affair to justify it? When done with it a year or two hence, or whenever, can it be sold for one half, or for any thing? Are there not buildings or rooms enough of some kind, in your City to be obtained, perhaps by moving, or somehow? Will it not be in the end like many, perhaps most, speculation? However you who are there know most, best, all about it. I presume understand yourselves & all the circumstances

You enquire of Cloaks. You better have one. Mine is a full Circle, many wear only three fourths circles, perhaps most do, for common. There is a little more of a full circle. Mine was velvet collar & front facing down a foot or two. It was a twenty dollar cloak, ~~made for~~ worth 18,00, perhaps. Worn only once, by a sick man, I bought it in the spring too when such things are cheaper. I paid only $12,00 for it. It passes pretty well for a $20,00 cloak though.

A 3/4 of the same cloth & trimmings would of course be 3/4 of it.

Have you changed your Boarding place? On Elias's account it was well at Brown's, that is if you had better chance to see to him. They ought not to have taxed you so high, I think. Have a good boarding place, but that is not so important to you as your dress. board cheaper & dress better.

What cloth are your pants? I want a good pair, I have lived upon $3,00 ones too long. too homely, though wear well.

I think were I at Bangor, I should clothe at Hunt's. that is so far as I now understand matters. Clothe Well

I would advise not you to purchase a Gold watch. those you mentioned are Ladies watches. I would not have a Gold watch cost less than $ 50 to 75! Much prefer a thorough perfect, full jewelled Lever Silver, cost $ 30,00 to 32,00 do ten times the service, and really better every way.

Some of our Turner Young men are going down East this winter up to Lincoln, lumbering &c. Some 8 or 10 of them. They go tomorrow I expect, and will pass through Bangor, perhaps stop there a little, so I think of sending these letters by them, they will get to Bangor a little sooner than by Wed. mail. But perhaps it will not be best to put the money therein, for fear that it might be mislaid. though they are young men who might be trusted, good country fellows.. I will send it in a week or two, perhaps a fortnight, about Thanksgiving time if just as convenient for you, when I have got the rest of my money. You can write to me first, if you please; Please to tell Elijah to write also.—

As to your remarks on my 'weak side' as you are pleased to term it, I beg leave to inform you that you are entirely & unnecessary out of the way in your calculations! There would possibly be some such danger for yourself if you ever ventured into the company of Ladies that is; not however that I would advise you not so to do, but probably you have erred somewhat in my character.

By the way, have you altered you opinion in relation to early marriages? Did I ever convince you of that!

I expect to teach school this Winter in Richmond a town on Kennebec, not very far from Augusta.

Write more news some other time Brother Isaac.

Mr. Joseph McMetcalf.
Goss & Upham No. 45 West Market Square
Bangor ME.

Isaac
Nov 17/45

Bowd. Coll., Dec. 11th 1845

Dear Brother

I arrived here at College, only last night, expect to remain here today, and take the stage for Richmond tomorrow.

I intended to have written to you, before this time, and have sent to you that money, but have been delaying it, as is too natural for me to do in many things. You must try to excuse my remissness, partly perhaps on the ground of waiting till I began to be settled somewhere. I am expecting to commence School in Richmond, Richmond Corner is the P. O. direction, next Monday, and I suppose I can continue there as long as I chose, at $18,00 per month, that is three or four months, but I donot mean to stay much more than two, for, after being out the fall term, I think I must be here again at the Commencement of the Spring term; especially on account of the Lectures. and, as it is partly a Subscription School, I can leave about when I choose, not having pledged myself to stay.

Term here is one Week longer; Vacation 8 weeks, So I can stay 9 weeks, or 10 at a pinch

I believe I have written to Sister Anne since my school closed, and perhaps probably you have seen that, so I need not write too you any-thing of that, as news. Since then I have remain-ed at Turner, studying _some_, loafing & visiting _some_, and enjoying myself _some_.

It was rather bad that my Winter school was de-layed so long, I hoped to have avoided it, but was unable, and it got too late to engage another. As I had to wait, and could do nothing to much advantage, if I came to College, the Turner people kind-ly invited me to spend the time there, which was quite convenient, and saved me considerable ex-pense here. I came here with about $60,00 in my pocket, at least I received that a few days before. I have paid $2,75 for a pair boots, Postage Bills at Turner & Summer Term at Bowdoin, about $2,37½ Stationary &c. $2,75. Then Expenses coming down ,50 I owe Stanwood here, cloth for my coat & things five or six dollars. Wash womans bill —— 1,20, I guess, or more Then my watch, $19,00, Stage fare to be paid to Richmond perhaps $1,50 — &c. &c. &c. &c. &c. &c. &c. So I have considerable of an idea that I shall not pay this fall a great deal to Old McKeen the College Treasurer of the $50 or 60,00 standing against me on my term bills. However some $25,00 of that I never mean to pay, being that on my first bill, charged for _Advance Standing_ Tuition &c. for the Freshman year. You know I have never given them the required _Bonds_! & WONT!

I have written to Milo again lately, but it is a good while since I have received any thing from there. My last reception from there was before the freshet.

What do you mean by your insinuation in respect to Charles W Rich Esq & Miss Albina Kittredge? What is, at present, your line of conduct towards the (so called) 'fair sex'? As usual? Of what sort are your Boarders, there at Sylvesters? What is Eliab's conduct in relation to Society? Does he get acquainted with the young men about any? Any others? Do you see Anne except at Meals? Why do not you take exercise? It is a pity if a smart young man, no lazier than you have a right [illegible] title to be, cannot get exercise. If you cannot split wood, as I do, or find any thing else to do out doors, get some Dumbbells or some heavy beetles and swing over your shoulders, to exercise the chest, and not walk, but run, and that up hill, when out door exercise for your legs & body & blood.

I will try and write better and more like a letter another time,

Please write, on receiving this, soon. And write frequently, and, if you please repeat my injunction upon Eliab.

Yours Fraternally

J. G. Metcalf

BRUNSWICK
DEC
11
Me.

5

Mr Joseph M. Metcalf
Bangor
Maine

Isaac
Dec 11/'45

Richmond Dec. 14th. 45

Dear Brother

It is but a day or two since
I mailed a letter to you, from Brunswick.
Perhaps there may seem no special need of
writing again, quite so soon; perhaps even be-
fore you have received the other, but, however,
I will mention to you a reason or two, for
inducing me to take such a step —
First, then I remitted to you, on Thursday last,
arriving in Bangor Friday probably, the enormous
sum of $25,00, all in Cash, that is, rags, pur-
porting to be worth that amount, being stamped as
bills on the Framingham Bank, & some Bangor Bank
I need not, perhaps, have been so explicit in
stating this fact, as it is probable that you are
already aware of it, — but — it has occurred
to me since forwarding the aforesaid letter, that
I omitted to direct it, as by you requested, to
the Care of Messrs [illegible] & Upham, of 45 West Mar
ket Square Bangor; — and, also — quite as care-
less a mistake, by the way, I had no recollec
tion of making mention at all in the letter
that it contained money, at all, certainly not
of the amount thereof —.

Another reason for my writing again, at this present time, is to request you, when you may have occasion to send letters, papers, packages, whatever, to me, through the mail of Uncle Sam, or other Conveyance, to forbear directing them to Richmond Corner, Richmond Village, or Richmond at all, but to Gardiner, and moreover to the care of ~~J. S. Mitc~~ J. S. Mitchell Esq. as by such an arrangement I shall receive them with much greater ease, and expedition, that is every day without any trouble, whereas, from either of the other directions I might receive them once a week, once a month, or once a no time, just as it might happen to happen, and much trouble at that.

There is one Post Office in Richmond 7 miles from here, and another 4 miles from here, but the communication with either place is very limited, whereas Gardiner, although 6 or 7 miles distant is frequently visited by all, and J. S. Mitchell Esq. my Agent & Employer, and next door neighbor, visits there regularly every day. He owns a farm, and lives here, but is a Merchant at Gardiner, 'Mitchell & Wilson', goes down every morning and back every night; regularly.

I came here in the Stage on Friday Kth, went to Squire Mitchells, found him a very pleasant sort of a person, especially his wife, a very pretty, and very witty, little woman, quite young, who calls him always J. S. (an odd name, it seemed to me, at first,) and jokes him, excessively. He has two daughters, by a former wife, who will go to school. The next day, Sat. He carried me over to Richmond Village, 7 ms.

Where I chanced to see Dr. Boynton, Lawyer Hagar, & Mitchell very Sup. S. C. Dr Boynton asked me two or three questions, guessed there was no need of examining me, and gave me a certificate. I went into Hagar's office, by the way, they are two fine men, & there were either two who signed it.  Richmond Vill. not great.

P.M. I staid & talked with Jane, wife of P. S., & Miss daughters, and at night went over to David Larry's, my <u>home</u>. Pleasant sort of people, David & wife, two children, Henry 16, Maria 13.
The Air tight good Stove in the Master's room not being yet set, I write this in the Kitchen, with the <u>folks</u>, the aforesaid 4.

To day, being Sabbath, I walked 4 miles to Meeting, nearly. There is usually Free Will Baptist meetings (or Quaker) in my School House none today, there are 4 different Meeting Houses, in as many different direction, within 3 or 4 miles each from here.
I went South, Stage Road, to the Corner. Very neat little Church 1/2 time Congregational. Rev. Mr Rand, the preacher, of whom I know only his name, & that he is a pretty fair preacher, rather youngish, the other half preaches at Richmond Village

I anticipate quite a pleasant school here. Small, probably about 30 scholars, forward, bright scholars, I have seen some of them, Some very bright I hear.

I shall probably be <u>provoked</u> at you if you do not write to me, pretty soon. <u>immediately</u>.  Does our Brother Elisha, and Sister Anne reside at Bangor now? If so, please inform them that I dwell at Richmond, having a Mail direction at Gardiner, care of P. S. Mitchell Esq.

Fraternally  P. S. Metcalf

Isaac
Dec 14/45

Mr. Joseph Metcalf.
Bangor
Maine

15th. Quite a storm, rain & snow.
School 32 scholars, small school
Bids fair to be a pleasant one
Bright intelligent; forward scholars
11 to 17 years of age mostly.
Good school. had good teachers
W. H. [illegible] 4 last winters Kimball
4 before.     Prospects pleasant.
Board pleasant &c.
Stages pass here 4 times per diem
Please write soon J. G.[?] Metcalf

Mr. J. M. Metcalf

Bowd. Coll. June 9th, 1847

Dear Brother,

Your last letter was by me received upon the highway from the hand of a traveller whom I did not at first recognize. Your letter I think had been a good while due; at least, I had written to you several times after receiving a previous one from you. However, I do not know as there was any thing in any of my letters or communications which required an answer, or which would be worthy of any subsequent reference.

Sacred Poems. By N. P. Willis. of the merits of which I suppose my opinion differs very little from yours; at least, most of the writing of N. P. W. I do not like and never did. I do not much admire the man himself. As for the poem to your criticism, it appears to be written in such perfect fashionable style that I suppose we may fairly take it for granted that it does not mean any thing. N. P. Willis is perhaps the best specimen of a literary 'Spoilt Child'. Some of his first poems, written while he was quite young, in College, or about the time he graduated, were really very good—considerin'— with the defects to be sure of such circumstances, of precocious genius &c. &c. but to be pardoned in the first efforts.

But the undiscriminating, injudicious, almost unmeasured and undeserved praise which they received fairly turned the

poor fellow's head. It showed thereby that he was not a really strongminded man; and made him, as you say, a conceited fop. In some other circumstances, such, for instance, as Genius usually meets with, he might have grown up a healthy vigorous writer, perhaps passed all his days for a man of sense. Willis' Sacred Poems are perhaps the best of all his poetic writings; his later poems show a repetition or increase of all their defects, without any more of real excellence.

I bought the volume on a certain occasion merely because it was the one I happened to see of the proper cost, appearance &c.

On the whole perhaps you & I should agree better upon N. P. Willis than upon Aesthetics in general, truth, beauty, utility &c. or upon the real relative value of a book and a peck of Corn

"An extremely malign disposition, when long denied any vent, will sometimes when circumstances are favorable thereto, produce a somewhat uncontrolable itch for scribbling which can be thoroughly relieved only by giving it free course" Pray what is the meaning, object, tendency, or point of all that? Or is it itself its own best illustration?

Words of Counsel — for what Young man? For Senior? You had better take it all back

Question of Division & Settlement of Property at Milo.

First; — how did you come to the idea of the sort of arrangement of thirds &c. a few years ago? You know I had & would have nothing at all to do with it then, & knew nothing at all of it. Whether that make it easier or worse now, I do not know. Was it like this. Charles W Rich Cr. $1000,00 and compound interest for seventeen years. also Seventeen years labor at $4.00 per year and boarded, annuity at compound interest, after deducting

money & household furn
$100,00 per year as expenses. Mrs. A. M. Metcalf Cr. $1500, with compound interest seventeen years; Also seventeen years labor at $150,00 per year and boarded, deducting $50.00 per year expenses. Annuity of $100,00 for seventeen years. To this last partners amount to be added or subtracted the value or cost of "broughting up" sundry younger members of family.

~~As for instance I. S. M. Dr 9 years board at $50, interest annual per year, 13 years clothing & expenses at $60, interest annual per year. Cr. 1st year — 2d yr 50, 3d yr 50, fourth year 100, 5th yr 120, 6th yr at school. 7th yr 150, 8th yr. 200, 9th yr 200, 10th & 11th At School Mostly 12th & 13th yrs. 600, (200 of it cash earned elsewhere) all with annual interest, or any other reckoning~~

~~However I guess it is generally allowed that the broughting up of so remarkably smart industrious hardworking & good natured young people as some I could name was not very expensive~~

11 However, supposing that matter all settled, and the exact relative proportions of the property rightfully belonging to each all definitely fixed upon there still remains to tell how much those proportions are now really worth — no very easy task either. Then if its value can be decided or determined, to tell what to do with it, is the next question.

There seem to be large difficulties in the way of almost any way of settling it I can think of at present. Some may be better than others. Think over the matter, if you have not already, and write to me about it. It is the duty of all to counsel the parties and keep them out of trouble, if it can be done. In counsel is safety & Wisdom

As regards Charles & Almeda there is certainly danger, almost danger of a real quarrel. Charles, I know is willing to do and to do a good deal to assist Almeda, he has done much. he would be willing to do almost any thing, if she would ever be willing to show or confess an obligation. She is certainly strange about that. I do not believe that she ever did really confess herself under an obligation to any one.
Now Chas. has certainly done a great deal for her, and he would feel a great deal better towards her, if she did not so curiously contrive to get round acknowledging it.
Not to have one's virtues appreciated and acknowledged is perhaps about the hardest of all trials for poor human Nature
Charles I suppose is absolutely established & fixed as to ~~how~~ he will take back that East field & will not do it on no other conditions. Almeda wants him to take it back, and upon ~~no~~ other conditions. She never did give up her will they say & does not mean to. Almeda says to frighten him, she will leave it out
Chas. I suppose would rather give up the whole concern and all the other property he has in the world.

I did think I would get along a spell ~~without that~~ $40.00, pay my other bills and let the term bills go a spell longer but they have just lighted upon me for my __bond__ which I am determined not to give, & perhaps I had better pay it what I can as soon as you can send ~~that~~ money conveniently

Yr. br. J. S. Metcalf

Write Soon

Mr J. M. Metcalf
Bangor
Maine

Isaac
Brunswick June 9/47
N.P. Willis. Settlement
of property at Milo

PAID 10

BRUNSWICK JUN 9 ME.

J. M. Metcalf Esq.
Bangor
Maine

Pd. 10
Ch. Box 38. J.S.M.

Isaac
June 9 1847
N.P. Willis. Settlement of property
at Milo.

Bowd. Coll. June 25th, 1847

Brother Joseph.

I received a letter from you June 13 containing Money, $35.00. I forget whether I have yet acknowledged its reception. I believe not; suppose I ought to have done it before now however.

Your last letter I received about one week since; and it probably deserves somewhat of answering. Some of it had become rather Old for these times. Some things though even improve by age.

As for "Jeremy Bentham", I believe you advise me to read more before I judge of him. I do not think I am very likely to read him much. There is a deal of truth in the Old minister's remark that "it is wrong to read a good book;— there are so many better ones." Iff I should undertake to read every book which is really twice as ~~truly~~ valuable as Bentham, I should have the work of more than one lifetime laid out. I guess that Bentham's warmest admirers do not think of denying his infidelity or Atheism. As to reading for ones self so as to judge, it is very plain that it will no do in all cases. Testimony is as valuable in the literary as in the physical world. I am no more obliged to read "Paul de Kock" and "Eugene Sue" in order to determine they are not worth reading, than I am obliged to cross the Atlantic to determine the existence of such a city as Paris. One must have opinions upon books he has never read, as well as upon things he has never seen.

Another thing—the guilt of Bentham in giving the utterance, the mighty "bodying forth" to the great unspoken Atheism of the depraved human heart. Think it over again. It must be so + it is but just too. If Genius, must have its glorious reward for its great and good, it must also

have its corresponding depth of degradation and punishment, when it violates its high responsibilities, and employs its mighty powers & influences in giving utterance to the evil and the bad of that humanity which it is its "mission" to elevate and purify. What is the guilt of Napoleon, of Jeroboam the son of Nebat, of Voltaire, of Byron, of Bentham? Or rather, compared with theirs, what is the guilt of the very worst this world has ever seen of that class "Who never had a dozen thoughts in all their lives", ~~and told them o'er~~ Which shall be beaten with the most stripes.

As to your "objections" to my view of "Whoso sheddeth man's blood, by man shall his blood be shed". 1st I do not take the passage out of its connection. It is its connection, not only the context, but the whole connection, the time, the place, the circumstances, the motives, the objects, the effects; it is this, it is all this, and all these, which convinces me that the passage can have no other rendering or meaning.

2d I deny that the language is dubious — in the original — or even in our version of it, which could not be improved.

3d There is a slight difference between "Whoso sheddeth &c." and "Multiply & replenish &c." "Whoso" is individual, particular, definite, pointed, & could not be clothed in language ~~stronger~~ more so. "Whoso" doeth so, shall be punished so. The other is General, universal, but not particular. In its true sense, it is undoubtedly a command, and as absolutely binding upon the human race as any other. A nation or a people refusing it entirely; doing like the "Areoi" of the Pacific, would ~~probably~~ perhaps be as guilty as a Nation of idolaters, of pirates, or of Murderers. It is one command, not to be sure the only one, wherein, the Anti-christ, Mother of Abominations, has, in part, at least, set herself against the will of the Highest.

What were Prof. Goodwin's great arguments? and what were his "Chips and Cobble Stones". I believe I never heard Prof. Goodwin mention Cap. Pun. I have Rex Woods though & Prof. Upham. I did not call your "dust", argument; still it is worth minding.

What shall I do when I get through at Old Bowdoin.?
I have applied for a situation of some kind upon the "Lewiston Falls and Waterville Rail Road" survey. Am all ready to go into any thing any time on or after the twenty eighth day of July next (July 27th, 1847.)
Shall I go West? What shall I do any how?
Where shall I get some money this summer? $100,00.

I like much our studies this term. One is "Smellie's Philosophy of Natural History", but we do not depend much upon the text book. We have some lectures upon Anatomy, Comparative Anatomy, Natural History, Physiology &c. scientifically considered; Also plenty of Anatomical subjects, specimens, cabinets and preparations; together with the most valuable & extensive and expensive, plates, books and so forth.
Also Lectures & Examinations upon Mineralogy and Geology by to say the least I suppose, one of the two greatest Mineralogists on this side of the Atlantic at least.
These lectures are in the Cabinet itself as a lecture room.
Our other studies are "Wayland's Moral Science", and "Upham's Philosophy of the Will". I am most interested in the former. I am reading considerable upon Anatomy, and intend to somewhat upon Mineralogy and Botany. Shall make some Mineralogical excursions hereabouts I think.

It is somewhat exciting seasons here nowadays; Election times. Peucinian Election last Wednesday, Athenaean next Wednesday, the Theological was yesterday. The great interest is upon the Athenaean, next week. My own interests in it are very great; that is, for my friends.

Have you seen or read Headley's new work, "Washington ~~and~~ his Generals"? S. W. Furber presented the first Volume to Lucy, the day I was in Bangor.
I have not read the whole; interesting, but I guess hardly equal to "Napoleon and his Marshals"
Is Godman's natural History in your Library?

What is the reason that Lucy, and Edith, and Anne do not write to me? I have not even heard from that Milo Celebration, P. Nic &c. yet.
I do not understand why they do not write.

I heard Rev. Wm S. Sewall of Brownville preach in Topsham, last Sabbath. Mr. Swan Lyman Pomroy is to preach here next Sabbath.
Arthur Swasey has preached here four Sabbaths lately. He is certainly rather a good preacher for a young- ster, he knows it far too well himself though.
I have heard something said of him as thought of for the Third or Central Church of Bangor. I may be prejudiced against the man, and against his intended wife; but as I think of them, I certainly hope A. Swasey will not be settled over ~~that~~ Church. I regard ~~that~~ that as likely to be a very important situation. It ought to be filled by a superior man, and a powerful man.
I suppose you have heard him preach somewhat. How? Is he the best of his Class, as a preacher? I judge they do not have a great many great men graduate at ~~that~~ Insti- tution nowadays, do they? Have you heard G. M. Adams, (George Moulton Adams) J. H. Merrill, and H. M. Stone? Adams & Merrill are superior men. Adams is the very tall long necked fellow. Stood very high here.
Drummond of the Junior Class, will come up. B. G. Snow is good. not very great

Isaac
Engineering. Teaching. Bankers of Exeter. Settlement of property at home.

Bowd. Coll. July 8th, 1847

Dear Brother.

Your letter of the sixth inst. was by me duly received this morning. As I happen just now to feel like it, I will endeavor to reply to it.

Engineering. "Plan may be a good one", damn with faint praise &c. rather cool at any rate

A College course may not be the best and most economical training for any occupation; it is certainly not the most economical one; but still is a good one for any business whatever, except that of a day laborer, is perhaps of no use for that, except as far as one's own happiness is concerned that is if one never wishes to rise from it; and may render one lazy, which is its usual effect.

Your ideas of the duties of an Engineer, are perhaps a little erroneous, as far as overseeing Paddies &c. &c. in concerned. All that sort of thing is the business of the Contractors, of those who build the road, and not of the Engineers. Engineers find out, decide and direct, where, how, the road shall be built, and see that the Contractors so build it, or cause their Paddies to.

I. S. M. "ought to be able to do something else equally as good quicker and easier" Do for pity's sake tell me what that "something else" is — any thing — any where — any how — and I stand ready to "pitch into it" immediately, and just as if I meaned something too.

My estimate of pay of Assistant Engineer was founded on personal knowledge. My friend Moses Leland Morse, who graduated here last year, with no sort of preparation, less fitted perhaps both by Nature, habit, and Education for the business than myself, obtained a situation as Assistant on the Lewiston & Waterville Rail Road. He received $ 1,25 per diem as Green hand for a few weeks. As soon as he learned the business a little, received and now receives $ 1,50 per diem, is Rod man in the levelling party.

E. Merrill Talbot of Turner, an acquaintance of mine, begun a few years ago on the Hartford & New Haven I believe. Had I suppose $1,50 per diem, at first, 2,00 per day summer & winter before he left there. Now has probably $ 1000, or 1200, per year on the Portsmouth and Concord R.R.

Engineers are employed by the year, (or by the job - till the road is done usually two or three years) rather than by the month.

However, I suppose likely that there is not much of a chance of my getting any sort of a such situation in the business right away. These matters go, (not by merit, Education or abilities) but by favor, the influence of rich relatives, in which you know I happen to be specially poor. I suppose it is much as Talbot wrote to me "Kissing goes by favor", 'every man who has a good situation in his power has also a relative to give it to."

I received Tuesday a letter from Uncle Joseph Stevens to whom I had written upon this subject. He seemed to approve of my views and course, and of my method of getting into the business.

He said that as the Conn. River Road is completed, the Engineers with whom he is most acquainted are away. He knows some of the Engineers on the Vermont & Mass. Road, and also the Cheshire Road. and promised to make inquiries there and write to me.

They had lately received a letter from Mother, stating that Charles had been married three months. He wrote "they all had neglected to report the matter, I conclude they put it off till they could see whether he lived" !!

Humphrey has returned from the West, and is expected at Warwick in a week. Maria is at home, &c. &c. Want I should "come and see them" as soon as I am dismissed." &c.

As for teaching I have pretty much made up my mind never to teach any more. I do not like it. It is not my "calling". While in College, I was not my own Man, must do whatever I could for money. I am so near through now that I begin to feel quite independent; even if I am a hundred or two in debt. I may be obliged to teach this Fall. If I go West probably shall; but, if not, I rather guess not.

As for the Waterville & Bangor R.R. I wish you would keep me constantly informed of every thing you can learn about. Is this "Moor" of Waterville, or where?

Allow me to congratulate you upon your success in S of T Election, not however that I think that "P.W.P." or "J.G.P.W.P." or "J.G.N.P.G.W.P." or any more of them are comparable to "Pres. of Ath. Soc."

What do you mean by "Rich Man's preacher"?
I think neither Adams or Merrill very great men.

The "Barker" of whom you spoke was probably not (Lewis)
He is a little lawyer (or doctor) at Stetson. Small potatoes, and been crazy at that. If it was a little lame fellow, it was "Mark" If a very long tongued, polititian &c. celebrated Abolitionist and Temperance man, it was David, rather a shallow fellow I say. rather smart naturally, but been sick and perhaps insane some, and slightly weakened. If a rough old farmer, it was Nathaniel. If the best one of the lot, both physically & intellectually ~~a~~ smart, fine fellow, it was my friend "Daniel." I liked him much.
The other brother "Noah" I have hardly seen. He is a regular old rough Woods surveyor. and wears leather trousers come up to his shoulders, and is probably a smart and capable business man. I went to Stetson Pond with "Nat", "Dan", "Mark", &c. in "Nat's" hay waggon, and saw "Lewis" at Stetson Mills.
Who is Robert Fernald? Where knew you him?
Presume you had a fine time at Milo, Wish I had been there

Property Settlement.

$50, per annum, 25 years, is at Compound interest $639, 16½, is it? It seems small does it not. However I think likely it is all right and for the best that it should be settled at some rate, not much matter how. Is the household furniture &c. &c. reckoned in that arrangement? or what & how of it? What does Mother do with the Line Cow. The keeping &c. will not be running behindhand, will it?

Is Charles likely to help me to any money anyway? You see, I must have some, at some rate, and that in about a fortnight. If there is no other way can you or Eliab contrive to ~~get~~ some to lend me a spell? Write me.

I hope you, as well as some other folks will write to me again very soon. Aff. I. S. Metcalf

It is well those Shingles of Charles are Cedar; they would rot before the reach Bangor. What does the man do for Provisions and taxes, I should like to know.
Is he, or are they, likely to do any thing towards getting some money for me this Summer? It certainly ought to be done.

Suppose I can, what do you think of the expediency of my getting upon the Rail Road anywhere, of intending to make myself an Engineer? Should I be fitted for such business, or likely to succeed in it?
I know that I can do better in something else than I can in School teaching, for I dislike it too much ever to take sufficient interest in it, to reach extended success. The Whole heart must be in any thing to ensure success in it. Mine, I believe could not be in Teaching as a permanent Profession.
As I do not intend to follow it as a profession is it not, the quicker I give it up entirely the better for me every way? If I can earn say from twenty or thirty to fifty or sixty dolls. per month besides board & expenses, to begin with, as an Engineer's Assistant, had I not better go into it? that is if I can get the Chance. And Why can I not, and succeed in it? An active, able bodied, rugged young man, familiar with labor, and exposure, possessed of mind, and of Education, with a disposition to do. What hinders
Please to Write again soon as convenient

Aff. J. S. Metcalf

Isaac
June 25 1847
J. Bentham. Reading good books. "Whoso sheddeth" &c. College studies. Headley's Washington &c. Character of students at Bangor Theo. Sem.

5

J. M. Metcalf Esq.
Bangor
Maine

BRUNSWICK

Isaac.
June 25 1847
J. Bentham. Reading good books. "Whoso sheddeth" &c. College studies. Headley's Washington &c. Literary Character of students at Bangor Theo. Seminary

Brother J. M.

I did expect ~~to~~ intend to go to your city and conference with you by the words of ~~our~~ ~~months~~ on; or rather, upon the very next day after this same day of Lebee R. & N. C.

You did advise me I believe that I should do something, or labor, somehow, "to profit". Well I have been laboring very essentially upon this poor man Whit his haying. By the way, permit me here to commend this man, who will probably be the bearer of this Epistle, to your kind and respectful consideration; he being as I do fully consider, a very first rate good ~~sort~~ of a man, in fact a very clever sort of a man;

Well, I most forgot what I begun to write, but there is an old and very venerable proverb, one, by the way, in which I take much comfort often times, which positively affirms that ~~the~~ "The Lame & the Lazy shall be provided for." Well so it happened (in this case) that I being at the time diligently laboring in the vineyard, I mean the hayfield, that is on the cart pitching of the hayton in the Barn, of this same man of whom I hereinbefore spake

I believe I began to say that Charles W. Rich did upon @ certain day of last week sell his two Steers, otherwise called a yoke of Steers, of the age of three years, for the sum of

$43,00

which he next morning did receive in very Cash!!!

There you need not read that which I have so far written, as it contains but a single idea, and that one you can just as well learn from Chas.

But of this money he did imme-diately deliver unto me @ XX.
This is sufficient to pay up my board and other necessary affairs at College.
Now I have some $ or so besides.
$ XV of said money he does immediately give over to Eliab, as money borrowed, I suppose for Wedding expense. This money I was in-tending to borrow of Eliab if he could spare it, and pay you some of what I borrowed of you, if you wanted it. But, it appears, that Eliab owes the money already to Almedq.
~~I ... ...~~

Howsomever, there is money enough in the country, and if I am not bound to have some of it, who is?
Well Lucy wants some things to get ready to be married, and the fact is she ought to have whatever she wants exactly
I expect Charles has given her V, and she

is going to have more of Ella's ink
and says she does not want
any more at present.
But at any rate I think of course she ought
to have whatever she wants.
Well, I believe I have written all
I wanted to say — to wit. ——————— Nothing.
Seems to me though I ought
to have something to ~~write~~
I think I shall go down to your City next
week and remain there a few days
and then perhaps go to Brunswick

P. S. McNeal

Hil

Jos. N. Melton

Isaac.
From Milo
July 1847

E. Millett Esq
Bangor

Isaac
written from Milo
July 1847

Bowd Coll. Sept. 2d '47

Dear Brother,

I have been intending to write a few words to you, before leaving Brunswick, but came near failing. I have been so busy. I intended to leave this afternoon for Portland, but lost my passage, and stay till tomorrow morn; expect to go to Bath, take Steamboat to Portland, and by Rail Road can go clear through to Boston for $1,50 from Bath, or stop any where I choose. How long I shall be gone, or where I shall go, I am sure I know not. Perhaps as long or as far as my money some $10,00 or 12,00 will carry me.

I have got somewhat tired out with my weeks work, I assure you. Had quite a long, though pleasant journey hither; by way of Belfast, Thomaston, Wiscasett. Stopped in Belfast, three or four hours, Thurs night at Cambden; Friday, breakfasted with the Antiquarians at East Thomaston; quite a large & jolly party. when I found them, one was seated in the reading room, with great dignity &c, reading from "Williamson's history of Maine"! (You've seen it)

Stopped also at Thomaston and went through the States Prison. In the Shoe Making Room, a good looking young fellow rose from his seat and came out to speak to me, caused quite a, almost fuss among keepers overseers & Wardens, as no prisoner is allowed to rise or speak. It was a young fellow committed from Bangor, by name of Henry Porter, true name H. C. Smith of Augusta. I do not know whether he had ever seen me, I did not know him. It was probably a sudden attack of insanity although the Wardens said he had never before manifested it. and his behavior had been unexceptionable. They soon quieted him, and I came away then.

Stopped 2 or 3 hours in Waldoboro', a thrifty new town of much Ship building. 10 Vessels lay on the stocks all together, 18 building in the town.

Stopped Friday night in Wiscasset, a very old, & very fine looking town. Got to Brunswick Sat. noon. Fare $2.00 Way expenses about $2,00 more.

Commencement

has been perhaps fully as good as usual. Tuesday 3½ P.M. Oration before Peucinian Society by Rev. Henry C. Prentiss of New Bedford, Subject, Integrity in Literature, an excellent performance. By Integrity he meaned wholeness, perfectness, truth. Spoke principally of literature of U.S. For Commencement itself I will send you Order. Wed Eve. Oration before Athenaean Soc. by Peleg W. Chandler of Boston younger brother of Squire Chandler of Farmington

subject, "The Practical Man" very good, wish I had time to tell you of it. After it the Celebrated "Athenaean Tea Party" &c.
today Phi Beta Kappa &c.
Great oration by Peabody.
Excuse this hasty scribbling.
If I do not return to Bangor soon I wish to get you to send up to Lucy for me some Linen for bosoms which I want made, & I'll settle.

Ans. directed to Boston & Worcester under date Sep. 4th.

Isaac
Intended journey west
Feb 2 1847

5

J. M. Metcalf Esq
Bangor
Maine

BRUNSWICK Me.
FEB 2

5

Brother J.

In consideration the importance of having plastering fixed <u>now</u> appears to me so great that I write ~~[illegible]~~ express to you at 5 o'clock in the morning to beseech you to engage a man to do it this next week. I am very sorry to be under the necessity of troubling you with it but if you must attend to it sometime, would it not be as convenient now as any other time. I want a little colouring put in the white-wash and a pint of varnish to prevent it from crumbling off. The entry needs a thorough plastering and time and suitable weather to dry, both which can be had now better than next Nov.

Had it not better be done? I think so

Isaac Feb. 17
journey to Northfield & folks there

1847

Mr. S. M. Wilcox Esq.

Northfield. Mass. Sept. 19th. 1847

Dear Brother,

It seems as if it had been a great while since I have seen you, heard from you, or even written to you. I believe I wrote to you from Brunswick, but am not certain:
I wrote a letter at Boston Sept. 4th, but it was after the Mail, and I did not send it, as it would have been worth nothing the next day.
Perhaps you may by some chance have heard something of my peregrinations, of which I wrote an extremely prolix account to Milo a week since. Lest you may not, suffer me briefly to recapitulate — I left Brunswick, Friday, Sept 2d, Stage to Bath, St. Huntress to Portland; R.R. to Boston, stopped at Marlboro
Called on Humphrey Stevens, Mrs. Child, Mrs. C. Chase &c.
Mr Bush died suddenly two or three weeks ago, almost instantaneously.
Left Boston Monday Morning Sept. 6th R.R. to Worcester, Stage via Barre to Warwick. Uncle Jos. not then at home. The men I wished to see at Northfield, viz: J.A. Stevens and — Edwards, Chief Engineer of Mass & Vermont R.R. also both absent, so I did not go over there. Spent Tues. 7th at Aunt Conant's. 8th at Uncle Joseph's 9th Walked over to Royalston Uncle Jacob Metcalf's. His Second wife was buried on the 7th. distressing illness five days. Samuel, also Widower at home. Josiah teaching school successfully at Winchester, home at funeral, but returned. Harriet, Prescott's widow, now Mrs. Brewster, now there from Worcester.

Miss Nancy Thomas, only surviving child of the late Mrs. Metcalf
~~was~~ is not the Lady of the house. I liked her appearance much.
I judged from appearances that she is to be married
to Mr Joseph Walker, whom you perhaps remember; if not
Eliab does. He is now a housewright at Winchendon, but
was at Uncle Jacobs' while I was there. I do love Uncle
Went up on the hill. How small and close together every thing
seemed, compared to my childish impressions!
Called at Mr Newton's, & also at Russell Morse's.
Went over with Cousin Samuel, to Mr H. Goddard's, cou
cousin Esther Williams, she has a very pretty little girl.
Visited the burying ground &c. Early fruit, Apples & Pears
very abundant at Uncle's. Sat. the 11th, walked to Warwick
P.M. with Uncle Jos. to Uncle Williams, Mr Baldwin, Yale Student
Lucy Williams's man, there. &c. She a fine girl.
Aunt Esther there. She looks younger than when at Milo.
Aunt Conant looks old. I should have known her, I think,
from her resemblance to Mother. Hervey Conant, went
the G. with his family, a visit to Barnard, brother Saml.
Sabbath, heard the Unitarian Mr Clark A.M. & P.M. Mr Kenney
Baptist from West Royalston, exchanged with Mr Hatch.
Monday, Sept. 13th. With Cousin Joseph A. S. just arri
ved from Boston, came over to Northfield, and here
have been ever since, and — whether I am likely to
be, — I am sure I know not. ——
Tuesday 14th, I called upon Mr Edwards, Cheif Engineer
of Vermont & Mass. R.R. who lives here, and who had
previously given, as you may have heard, encouragement
that I could have a situation on this road. Well, the Directors
of this, & Fitchburg Road and others, had just had a great meeting:

Present a delegation from city of Troy N.Y.
It was decided to go on immediately this Fall to lay out this road, Fitchburg now completed to Baldwinville, nearly through Nov 1st Soon to Athol, then through Northfield to Brattleboro. this Fall. Also, and for which a large appropriation was made, to make a survey for a route across from this road, to Troy. N.Y. So there will be business enough this Fall. But Mr Edwards is not yet authorised to proceed and secure more help but says he ~~thinks~~ there is no doubt of my getting a situation somewhere about it, if I will wait for it.

So — thus — have I been waiting — at residence of Mr Albert C. Parsons & his wife Hannah, and Mr Jos. A. Stevens & his wife Jane. with their Children Albert P. 6, Maria P. 4, and Jos. Wells S. — 1. very pleasant family, or families, all in one house. Mr Parsons a very fine man. his wife Hannah rather a superior woman. Jos. A. you know. His wife Jane I like. The Children all pleasant & bright. Parsons & Stevens, a flourishing firm. Boots, Shoes & Leather. extensively engaged in the manufacture of leather, and in Boot & Shoe business. I ~~have picked~~ loafed some, rode out with the Ladies and picked plums considerable. worked in the Tan Yard, and Bark Mill, &c. &c. Old Mr. Wells & wife, Jos.' wifes parents, of Shelburne have been here the past week; and I have a valuable invitation over to Shelburne, 18 ms. with the Ladies. to a peach picking the coming week. Think I "shall be thar".

I am extremely anxious to do ~~and have~~ a good many things, but the most important, seems to be just now to hear from some of you folks down East. But how to compass it, seems the difficulty. I cannot of course, if none of you write to me. But where shall you direct your letters?

I may be here in Northfield a fortnight, or ~~about here~~ all the Fall & Winter
I may leave here tomorrow for good. I may be in
Warwick or in Royalston for a spell or a spell & a half.
and I may be at Bangor right away pretty soon,
or for the matter of that most any where else.
However, for the matter of that, it would certainly do no
harm for any of you to write to me here or at War-
wick. I really wish you would. I do want to hear
awfully. If I did not get such letters ——
By the way, how much do I owe you? I might per-
haps send you part at least of it, but guess I will not
just now, for I may need it myself more.
Joseph says the thing for Charles is to raise hops. land fit &c &c
People get rich by it here. What say shall Rich get richer thereby?
What has Ann said to you of her plans? She began to
impart them to me. I wanted to have had a long
talk with you about some such matters, but found
no season. Please write to me thereupon, if I
do not return thither
Northfield Street is a beautiful place indeed; and "the Mead
ows" the richest land in the world, they say. Broom Corn
the noblest looking crop I ever saw. 10 feet high +
First Frost Sept. 17th not severe. Peaches & Plums.
Chas. Mattoon (Col Mattoon's Son) lawyer in Northfield, acquaintance of mine
David Ball, says acquaintance of yours, lately married, lives in N,
drives six horse express team N. to Fitchburg.
Well — perhaps this will be bore enough for one letter
hope I shall hear from you soon
Brother J. S.

Northfield, Sept. 24th, 1847

Well, at last, after so long waiting and suspense, Mr. A. F. Edwards now informs me that I can have a situation upon the Vermont and Massachusetts Rail Road, as an Assistant Engineer. And to begin in a day or two, probably Monday or Tuesday of next week. So I cannot well have time to return to Bangor or any where else for my fixings, and must have my trunk sent on in the best possible manner by Express perhaps. You know best how as far as Boston, — After that, "Fitchburg Rail Road, via Baldwinsville, to Northfield." I shall not be at Northfield probably, but I do not yet know where I shall be, and at any rate I can get it from here.

K. White

My trunk you know is in the Garrett or Chamber, over your store. However, now I think of it, there are some things perhaps that are at Milo, and ought to be in the trunk. Which can easily be arranged as I have there one key of the trunk and the other I left not with you I think, but with Lucy, at Milo. I will write immediately to her and you send not the trunk until she has time to forward to you whatever ought to be inserted

I guess the best way for the trunk to come would be Bangor and Boston Express to the Quincy House, Boston; (Brattleboro Express Depot) By the Express (Brattleboro Express) of K. White.

The Express runs to Brattleboro, and I shall, probably be nearer Brattleboro than Northfield.

("Quincy House Boston, White's Express, Brattleboro")

The greatest trouble is do not know exactly what to write to Lucy that I want.

I expect I can get along a few days, even as an Engineer, without my trunk I must buy a Coat and pr boots to begin with.

P

Monday of this week I went over to Winchester to see Cousin Josiah K. Metcalf now teaching Select School there stopped gone twenty four hours.

Tuesday P.M. went over to Warwick
Uncle Williams. S. E. Baldwin, Lucy's man
there. B. and I went Wed. A.M. upon
Mt. Grace. The Greatest, by far, of all
my experience of Mountain climbing
and scenery. It was splendid

I expect, by the time I get fairly
at work on the Rail Road I shall want
awfully to down to Bangor

Perhaps, I will write to Lucy to night
have every thing made ready to
send my trunk just as soon
as possible, but you not send it on
for a day or two until I write,
so you may know better where.

Aff. J. S. Metcalfe

Isaac

Sep 24 1847

I have got a Situation on Vt & Ms R.R. Send on my trunk.

A F Edwards Esq

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J. M. Metcalf Esq
Bangor
Maine

Montpelier Vt
Sept 23

Brattleboro, Sept. 27th, 1847

Dear Brother,

I beleive it is not long since I directed a letter to you, but as I promised to write again, I fear you will not send on my trunk, without further order.

The trunk should be sent to this place as soon as convenient. Directed — I. S. Metcalf, Brattleboro Vt. Care of White's ~~Brattleboro~~ Express, No 3. Fanuel Hall Boston. To which place you can send it as you think best. by Express, I suppose. If the Bangor Express delivers it at No 3. Fanuel Hall, Boston, White's Express will pay their bills and charge it upon the trunk here.

Perhaps it would be worth the while for correctness and safety, to write by mail at the same time that you forward

I shall probably commence operations on Wednesday, near here. Whether I shall

be working towards Troy N.Y. or
Bellows Falls is by me not certainly
now known; I think likely through
towards N.Y. over the mountains.
Brattleboro is quite a place, more than
I expected — flourishing — destined to be
more so. These Rail Roads are great
things — Strange our Down East people
do not get their eyes open to them
a little more than they have.
Do write to me how everything
gets along. You cannot ~~guess~~ imagine
how anxious I am getting to be to
hear from some of you.
Whether I shall have time & opportunity to
write I know not. Old Edwards asked
me Sat. if I thought I could stand
it to '<u>Camp Out</u>'? What would
you have told him? Ha!
I tried to get me a coat in Northfield
the other day. Could not get up one
that would answer my purpose

at any reasonable rate, if at all.
To day I find one in Brattleboro that does me fairly for $5.00!
I expected to give 7.00 or 7.50
Tell Elijah to write to me.

wish I could receive my trunk Sat. night. It would be very great convenience to me
If not Tuesday of next week I suppose.
If you can get it to Boston Friday night next. do it — if not — thereafter.

Affectionately
J. L. Metcalf

Forwarded by
Jerome's Express
Oct 7th 1847

LL
SS

Isaac
Sep. 17 1847
Forwarding trunk to Vt.

Mr. J. M. Metcalf
Bangor
Maine

49

Northfield Monday morn. Oct. 11th 47

Dear Joseph

I have got up before the Engineers.

I believe I shall send on this letter with others, this morning.

I do not yet know whether we shall start for Bennington to day, or not.

At any rate I think I shall contrive to go as far as Brattleboro', so as to get hold of my trunk, which I have not yet seen.

If I find it at Brattleboro', well & good; will write to inform you.

If, by any possibility, it is not there, I do not know what I shall, or can, do.

At any rate I should write to you fre soon.

Write to me all the news and every thing else Joseph, Elijah, Friend.

Be good boys, mind your health, your business, and your characters, and may the God preserve, protect, and bless you & all,

Aff. [illegible]

Northport Me
Oct 12

Paid 10

Unpaid 10

J. M. Metcalf Esq.
Bangor
Maine

Isaac Oct. 11 – 47

Brattleboro' Vermont. Sunday, October 31st. 1847

Contrary to my usual practice, it is now, I believe, nearly a whole fortnight since I have written home. However, I presume I need make no excuse therefor, as it is about three weeks since I have received a letter, or heard a word from Down East. Alfred R. Field Esq., my present immediate superior, has gone down to Litchfield to day, and I expect will bring me upon his return about a dozen letters, If he does not, I have made up my mind to be considerably vexed with the inhabitants of Maine. Now, if I were at home, I think I could find a good deal to write to a poor scamp so far off which would interest him; knowing as well as I do that every thing I could write would be interesting to him.

But now, I have quite a mind to give up writing altogether, as others do. I can of course have nothing of importance to write, merely how I myself am getting on. To be sure, it might be a matter of curiosity simply to know for people at home to hear once in a while what a fellow was about or whether he was about anything; but then it is of no sort of consequence: it can make no difference: he gets along just as well, whether they know it or even think of it. On the whole perhaps it would be better to write only once a year! And if none of you ever write to me, I may adopt that in myself!

pursuance of this plan I am writing this letter, you see!

I am getting along finely in my profession, in fact, much beyond my expectations. What my wages may be I do not know. Perhaps, with my opportunities for advancement, I ought to be satisfied without wages at all. At present prospects I shall be capable enough by next Spring to be worth about fifty dollars per month. Circumstances on this road have been just such that I have been put forward so far just as fast as I could wish it. Most, in commencing the business are obliged to serve in some inferior capacity for a year or two at least. Perhaps carry a rod for the Level for a year or two without ever getting hold of the instrument itself, or any other instrument. I have now been on the road about a month. instead of being confined to one inferior employment, I have had opportunity to become acquainted with many. In fact, feel already quite familiar with the whole business of Engineering, as far as concerns the surveying laying out of a road preparatory to ~~its~~ building it., preparatory to the work of the paddies. I am now the Surveyor of a party of Engineers running a line from here to Bellows Falls. At the head of the party, this business is to go ahead and tell where to run the line. But the Surveyor whose business it is to carry the instrument and run the line. And better than all that; as good luck would have it, the compasses all happening to be out of order, I had to run a line all last week with a Transit. Thus giving me a still better opportunity

being a very beautiful and complicated instrument. and of course improving & advancing still faster. "The Old Man", A. R. Field Esq. the head of the party, is riding about, or looking about, most of the time, and I, of course have the charge of the business The rest of the party are, Jonathan Orcutt, one of the [illegible] hardest looking customers you ever saw. has been on the Road three years, is as good a head chainman, target, or Rod man, as any one can be, but without education can probably never get any higher. He is skillfull, quick sighted, and correct, much depended upon in every thing, but rather quick tempered, and somewhat ugly when angry. I manage as well as I can to keep the right side of him, and succeed very well, though I find he is not disposed to like me. perhaps does not like it very well that I a new comer am put above him.

Mr. S. H. Tenney, School Master of Gill, Mass., a pretty good sort of a fellow, quite a scholar, slightly pedantic perhaps, but his principal fault being that he cannot keep his mouth shut. I hardly ever saw one's tongue run so, and on every variety of subject. Why, especially if he happens to get an extra cup of tea. I believe he would rattle of scraps of poetry & every thing else, all night long. He says he can repeat a couplet from any Author of the English language! On the whole, he affords us much amusement, but whether he will ever make an Engin is more than I know. —Francis Fisher, is an ignorant, stout, Chopper, does, and never can be anything better

Rufus Holton of Northfield is a very good sort of a fellow (Oct 30 to Nov 8) not been very long in the service, but promises to be a very useful one. These four make my party, except the "Old Man", as they call the head of the party.

A. R. Field Esq. is called a very fine man. I do not think very highly of him as an Engineer. he is a little short sighted, and that is as great a defect as one can have. He has however had a good deal of practice, and probably thinks himself much superior to some above him. Joseph A. Stevens is particularly a friend of his, and his father I expect thinks Field has badly influenced Joseph's religious opinions. Uncle & family, & Parsons & Hannah you know are, or call themselves, Evangelical Unitarians. belong to the Religious Unitarians; are very Religious as Wooster Parker said of the Universalist affairs; their religion consist in these things.

Field is a great admirer of Parker. Theodore Parker you know whom some of the other Unitarians consider little better than an infidel. And in fact I think Field is but little better. And Joseph is slightly of the same sort. It is a sort of natural tendency of Unitarianism; if its believers get tired of trying to work out salvation by their own good works, they very naturally turn towards infidelity, perhaps a little afraid of it, the name at least. but in reality getting towards it.

How long I shall stay between here & Bellows Falls I know not. the last week we have stopped here at Brattleboro, this week we shall be at Putney, the next probably at Westminster, and the next perhaps at the Falls. That is if we are not before that called over upon the Mountain, to the Bennington & Troy Survey.

This is the letter to Joseph continued.

Perhaps however with new sheets, its best to take up new subjects. Have you a boy? Is it Moses Greenleaf? How does he answer? and what is the prospect of his usefulness & excellence, next year & hereafter. Do you Expect S. W. Furber to be with you next season. What is the prospect for your next summer's business

Glad to hear of it if you have an agreeable boarding place. Have Labaree & Son, taken down the "Bangor Temperance House" sign? It ought to be pulled over their ears. How do you like Woodbury as a Chum? My best respects to him & any other friends if such there be.

you ought to have given Labaree a few words of "your mind", upon leaving him under such circumstances as you mention. If you were going to a public house to board at all, why did you not go to Varney's, as is that more expensive. How much does your board cost per week.

You speak of being in Mass. [illegible]. If so, why do you not visit here. It would do me considerable good to see you here. It would cost only 2. or three dollars from Boston here.

Is it an Irish Cook or Chamber girl, of whom you speak as Co eater of Pie with yourself? If not get acquainted fast as possible.

As for political principles of the Whig & Democratic There is in reality & has been no difference. difference of principles is not has never been since 50 years the cause of difference of parties.

writings of Charlotte Elisabeth of ~~whom~~ which you speak I am quite unacquainted with. I think her a strong sectarian, ~~High Church~~ Episcopalian I guess. Though I remember she was very religious. Somehow I have impression they are not just the thing. May be mistaken. Guess however they are about of that half way medium class of writings under which most come, which I dont think much of reading. Neither strong meat nor good recreative matter, rather milk for babes order.

Fortnight ago today. Party of Engineers from Vt. Mass RR. started for Survey of Route from Brattleboro' to Bellows Falls. N. R. Field, Head. J. S. Metcalf Surveyor. J. Orcutt & F. A. Tenney Chainmen; F. Fisher Chopper. R. H. Holton, Target & Chopper. To better the business for me, the compasses were out of Order, & I had to use a Transit. Then Field was called away & I was left head & all for three days. Rather a responsible, or difficult situation, Surveyor on a route entirely new without any one to go ahead to look out the route. Moreover, it was the worst place on the whole line worst country I ever saw. However I made out better than I expected, better than Field expected. And after we got out of the Dummerston Ravines I would not have given a snap for Field to tell me the Country ahead. See it for my

self, across those great thousand acre meadows.
I had reputation of an old surveyor when I came on the road, & have never injured the reputation though it has been well tried; and in reality I had hardly ever used a compass. However I knew enough about it to learn without showing any ignorance; and I believe I am likely to make a really good surveyor, at least. I had a considerable time up there. All the care & responsibility of the business & a crew of men, Books &c. to keep in order, and lines all to be plotted evenings.
I expect now not to go upon the mountain survey. but to remain on this road where I shall have a better chance in many respects. There I should be a good common hand. here I shall have charge over others, but poorer men, though in a business I need more to learn – Building a road not surveying it.
This has been Town Meeting day. Great Whig or Anti War party gain. I was invited to a Whig Glorification Supper, but do not go – as this letter shows.
I shall probably be most of this winter between Northfield & Brattleboro, perhaps located at Vernon!

J. S. Metcalf

Isaac
Oct 31 & Nov 8 1847

Northampton Mass
Nov 8

$20

J. M. Metcalf Esq
Bangor
Maine

as soon as you have a good chance. Believe, it is the best thing you can do.

$15.00

Nov. 8th 1847 Monday Eve.

Dear Brother Joseph.

I have just signed the Engineer's Pay Roll of Vt. & Mass. R.R. for the Month of October, and received therefor $20,00 in addition to $14.00 board.

Not very great wages, but I do not know as I better complain, it is five dollars or more better than new beginners generally receive. To be sure, I have done more than a usual proportion of hard labor, having whenever there was opportunity, gone ahead in any or every laborious matter; and then a considerable part of the time, I have been using instruments & entrusted with business, for which one usually receive about double those wages. But then, I have had an unusually good chance & opportunity for improvement, for learning just the things I want & need to learn. So that it would be better for me by far, even if I received no higher wages, or perhaps even, none at all. However, it will not be long, at this rate before I can set my own wages. Next summer, next spring, they will be pretty decent — perhaps.

I wish I could send you the whole $20,00 dollars, and ten or fifteen more with it. But I shall be obliged to have some clothing &c. as the colder weather is coming on, and shall be most particularly short even if I keep the V. So you will be obliged to wait in hopes I may sometime see another

"Pay Roll." } Your full & excellent letter or letters were by me duly received on the evening of Friday last Nov. 5th. And received too to my great gratification I had been long expecting letters both from you & from Milo. They both finally came together.
Yours was partly written sometime ago, — about the time I began to expect it. Do you show my letters to Eliab & to Ann? And why do they not write? You say as to seeing your relatives in Mass. &c. with the utmost Nonchalance & sang froid to boot, "probably I never shall" If you have got into to your old musty snail shell, & drawn your slime around you, and fairly dried or frozen in, is it yet absolutely certain that the sun never will shine, or the gentle rain, or the dews fall again, to soften you out?
You enquire why I do not have some thinner & finer ruled paper to write letters on. It would be well. It is simply because I write on just what I have by me, perhaps what happens to be found at the desk, or in the bar room or R.R. or other office where I hap pen to write. If Mt. Grace is the least of all Mountains it is not one of the least extensive, or least beautiful prospects. Am hardly prepared to agree with you that Potatoes "were". You Enquire if there is R.R. from Boston to Northfield. The Vermont & Mass. R.R. "a part of which I am"; was finished last August from the terminus of "Fitchburg R.R. at Fitchburg. to Baldwinsville. just now opened from there to Athol (through South Royalston, where the dreadful R.R. accident lately oc curred) nearly done to mouth of Millers river, will be complete to Northfield sometime next Spring, to Brattleboro. Vt. in the course of the season.

Fitchburg R.R. Stock about the best in the world. holders doubled or quadrupled their money. Vt. & Ms. now 75½ to 80 or 90 [illegible]. constantly gaining reputation. had to contend with greatest obstacles & adverse influences. If a new Road is built across the Mountain Vt. & Ms. will be equal to Fitchburg or better yet.

Politics. have I written you any thing thereof? the real if not open breaking up of old party lines. Merely nominal. There is but one great question before the country.

If Silas Wright had lived to be candidate for Pres. 9/10 of the Whigs of Mass. at least would have voted for him. If Taylor is nominated all Southern Democrats as well as whigs vote for him. but No true Whigs at the North, Mass. at least. at least none who do not vote for Caleb Cushing for Governor, in opposition for Geo. N. Briggs.

~~There are~~ You have too poor an opinion of folks in general. The worst thing I have against the Mercantile profession — its tendency to harden the face of a man like a flint against his fellow man. — to shut up & freeze down all those kind warm sympathies gushing from a true human heart, which honor, ennoble & exalt, as they purify & bless, the whole human Existence. Fallen human nature is doubtless bad enough; Do not give up what you may almost call the only good thing about it.

Chief Engineer Edwards hired me. Monthly Pay Roll, looks out for the wages. Vt. & Ms. R.R. Co. is responsible.

You say the World is well enough on some sunny day &c. It depends only on one's own mind to have all one's days sunny days

About the 25th of Oct. last past (Oct 3 to Nov 5) you appear to have had quite a serious attack of the so called — — "B. Devils."
Miserable, frightful devils I expect they are. Am not subject to them myself. I was thinking while reading yours to give you a serious lecture upon these Blue Devils But now you have got over it I suppose the very best dose you could have would be copy of your effusions at that time, ~~as~~ "in terrorem".

But seriously Joseph I believe it to be, not only perfectly needless, but absolutely wrong to give way to, or even to harbour at all such feelings, To be sure, you have trials troubles, vexations, disappointments, discouragement &c. &c. who have all. You may have a large share. 'Tis no reason for Blues If we were to make a general rule, it would be found that he who has the most of all these evils is the happy man in this life: far oftener at any rate than the contrary. After all, all these fellings, Blues &c. commonly have a physical rather than ~~a~~ mental or a moral origin. You have had too much labor, care & anxiety. Too little recreation, of mind or body. Therein you have done wrong; no matter if circumstances did seem to require it. It was wrong. Contrary to the Laws, natural laws so called, of Him who created & nobly endowed Mind & body. These laws broken bring penalties! You have mixed too little in Society. Society — the Society of the intelligent & good of the other sex, is perhaps the best recreation of mind. The bow must not be always bent. I can study more in a year in 10 hours per diem than in 18. You or any body else can do more & better for some recreation. Duty, Duty to yourself, to friends, to Creator, requires it.

I advise you as a brother, to ~~go more~~ get acquainted more, & with Females too. they are not all so much inferior or unworthy of acquaintance as you may imagine. Make up your mind also to get married

Joseph. This Sheet is partly to you, the other two
Annie & a word to Elicil.

Thursday Dec. 2d. It is Thanksgiving Day in Vermont. but I do not happen to be there today. It is a very rainy day. but a time in the Northfield R.R. Office. The President Alvah Crocker Esq. is about & some of the Directors full of all kinds of business. The Head Bookkeeper & Pay Masters of the Corporation are up here, paying off Irishmen &c. &c. by scores. Bills off all kinds. for piles & sleepers. & plank & stone, and work & Board, and every thing else. Besides all this Engineers are up from below, with the Conn. River big bridge builders; drawing off plans, profiles, Elevations, sections, beds, foundations, abutments piers, parapets, &c. &c. &c. of the bridge. You may imagine that it is rather a busy time for a Rainy day. We underlings have to stand round of course. My regular business is of course all interrupted But it will not do for me to get out of the way. I must be ready for every call, to make a little calculation or estimate here, draw a little plan there, or go off to call some absent man. Just about this time I have nothing to do but to wait. ——

This Bridge across the Connecticut River is to be a magnificent Affair. The Cost not less than $68000. Probably considerable more than that. The Contract requires the work to be superior to that of any R.R. bridge in the United States! It is built by the Greatest bridge builders in the Country. Messrs Stone, Harris, & Birnie. This is but one of many great contracts on their hands now. For instance they build all the bridges on the Great Atlantic & St Lawrence Rail Road. One of these R.R. bridges, (they are all after the same patent, same invention) is in it self quite a sight.

Think of a Great bridge, this for instance is about 700 feet.

made to support hundreds of tons weight; with no such thing as an arch about it; merely this straight "truss work", perhaps near 200 feet span, and the largest timber in it seven inches thick! It speaks considerable for the inventive genius of puny Man.

Rail Road Bridges all over the country, I do not know but all over the world are made on the same pattern.

You have probably seen accounts, if I did not write it, of the falling of a Rail Road Bridge in this Road, in Royalston, a month since first time it was crossed by a heavy loaded train. Six lives lost &c.

It frightened people all over the world. In their props were in the first excitement put under the span by the bridges in many places. If one of these bridges can fall, why not another, or all? But there can be no doubt of the Bridge principle. It has been tested and tried enough, if any thing can be enough. To overturn it now would be almost to overturn every rail Road in the world.

Well Joseph your letter was duly received, and one from Sister Anne enclosed, last Monday. Dec. 6th. duly rec did I say? it had been for some reason or other more than a week in the way here. Enclosed in the letter were two blank half sheets of paper! (by mistake, or with some hidden meaning). At any rate they made the postage double. and moreover your Bangor P.M., either knowing better or worse the situation of Northfield, than other P.M. in Maine, considers it over 300 miles. and so the postage was 20 About the same time I got one from Milo — 5 cts. And I mail letter to any part of Maine from here for that.

However, I was glad enough to get the letter at that I had been expecting it for some time.

You thought my pay would be greater! Why you would con

sider it pretty well for one commencing Mercantile business to get at the rate of $400. per year. besides all that before the year is out I shall probably receive at the rate of $6.00 per year. That is perhaps I shall. And when I get two or three thousand per Annum the business will be better than yours! When the Western R.R. was built, its Engineer received $5000, per year.

Why do you not keep a fire in your store?
What a cold country that Down East of yours must be! Why here we have had only two or three cold days, and those only in the imagination of the ~~natyves~~. I have not been cold. As for freezing up there appears no more prospect of such a thing than there was last May. The weather lately has been a succession of long heavy Rain Storms, clearing off warm & sunny for a day or two and then another. Did your River really freeze up three weeks since? Neither ice nor snow here.

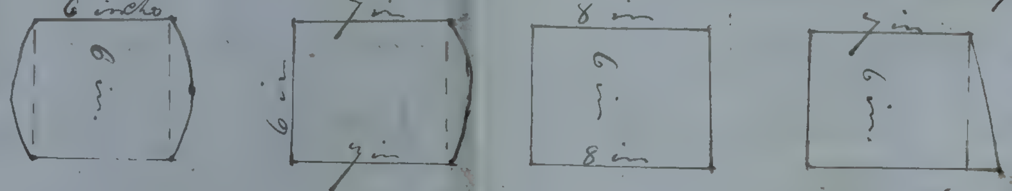
I hereby commission you to rub the ears of C. W. Metcalf soundly, and charge the same to my account. or send in your bill whenever you please.
You say you had no Newspapers. Why. what is your Reading Room good for to you? It is every one's duty to keep informed of Public Affairs. Keep your feet dry

Shingle Trade to Northfield will probably not be much. The place is small, its business less. Building going on, I know of none, except Paddy Shanties. Those are never shingled. Brattlebor'o, 12 ms. above is quite a large town, full of business. It is however in the midst of an extensive Slate region. Slate probably as cheap there as any where in the world now.

The Old Vermont Windham County Farmers have their barns all slated. Moreover there is much Lumber on the Connecticut river. It comes down from Bellows Falls in rafts less than 1/2 mile long. unjointing at the rapids. Their shingle bunches are enough to make a Down Easter laugh. That Bangor shingles come to Springfield is a striking proof that the Conn. is not the Penobscot! 12 ms below Greenfield is quite a place. if you can send shingles there our folks are perfectly acquainted. I should think Fitchburg would be a good single market. Northfield has no Bank. no business - no building. If there were no Rail Road men about. you would hardly find $100. in it except it might be in some Old Woman's stocking!

R.R. Sleepers. "Vt & Mass". are "White Chestnut, seven & a half feet in length, six inches face & full six inches." Said sleepers are delivered here at twenty cents each.

End view of said sleepers




Cedar would be preferred

Engineer perceiving me doing this same requests to know for what price you would contract to deliver such sleepers at Charleston. Say twenty or thirty thousand of them? Come tell us what you can afford. Delivered at Fitchburg R.R. Wharf. Charleston.

As for your opinion of individual humanity I suppose it can not be otherwise. it is the worst part of mercantile life. One is brought in contact only with the worst part of human Nature. Of course is likely to form a poor opinion of it.

What has become of the "Greenleaf Boy whom you expected in your store? Which party did not suit? I suppose when you were in Mass. of course you were in Boston. Why did you not call upon Humphrey Stevens. He and others too. would not like it very well if they knew you were in Boston without seeing him. You know his place do you not? However I think [illegible] has given up [illegible] [illegible] is out of business, just now I guess [illegible]

Have you [illegible] in a new [illegible]?

Isaac
Dec 2 1847
Conn. Riv. Bridge. Salary. Sale
for shingles in Northfield
R R sleepers

Franklin Me
Dec 9

5

Messrs. Metcalf & Fisher
Bangor
Me

Geo W. Darling
Cedar Keepers
Dec 8 1847

Vt. & Mass RR Office Northfield

My Vt. & Mass. R.R. Office. Northfield. Dec. 22d 47

Dear Brother

Yours of the 19th inst. dated at Bowd. Coll. came to my hands this evening. Several items and matters of fact therein contained, being noticed, I deem worthy of recurrence, and having this evening finished my day's work early; it is hardly yet nine by the clock; I consider the occasion favorable for scribbling a few words of reply, while my mind is thereunto attracted. Your letter is dated Bowd. Coll. Very well for the occasion; though erroneous in point of fact, "Berry's" not being within the College Yard. I am glad to hear you have been at Brunswick. It is always pleasant to have ones relatives & friends see ~~even~~ the places we have seen: There is one more idea in common. Strictures upon King Chapel & Brunswick Church. Your Criticism shows your habits of thought, and the circumstances under which your taste is formed. Your taste is undoubtedly a good one, severe, correct, and all that, as far as your own sphere is concerned. But upon College Chapels or even upon Churches you get beyond it! I should agree with you on the proportions of those buildings if designed for a Town Hall, an Exchange, or even a Court House. Mr. Upjohn is undoubtedly at least *one* of the first Architects in the U. S. Those buildings, both designed by him certainly do him Credit. They are not *Doric*, that would be fit for

for a Town Hall, or Corinthian, appropriate for a Dancing Hall:
The style is a sort of modification of the Gothic, properly called the Romanic a favorite of the said Upjohn, and like the Gothic peculiarly appropriate for the house of God. Every critic's taste I believe assigns the Gothic with its pointed arches, its shadowy isles, it high windows, its Spires piercing the skies, as the perfection of taste for the Temple of the Christian God. The Romanic with the same general character, the same severe proportion and lofty heavenly grandeur is equally adapted to the same purpose, with the benefit of greater variety, and greater capacity of adaptedness to different circumstances of time, place, and purpose. The "effect" of the tower of that Church is for me almost entirely unrivalled.
"Tontine is a good house." is it, indeed? There is a College in the town. You stop at the "Elm House" Portland. Is that the Temperance House. I forget whether it is the "Elm" "U.S." or "American" is it where I stop.
What is the cause of the heavy failure of Jas. Perkins Co?

But the principal effect with which in view I took pen at this time, in hand, was to, to Scold at you a little.
If, as you write, you found yourself delayed in Portland, unable to proceed upon your journey by your usual or proposed route, Why did you not take the Stage, leaving Portland for Brunswick twice a day regular? or if you prefered it Charter a "team" of some other kind. You are old enough to know that all things have their value Gold & Silver have, so have taters & shingle. You are old enough to know that Bones, muscles, & health, have also a value You ought to know it. Even I, and I was duller at it than any person claiming common sense ought to be, have learned the lesson.
The Stage fare from Portland to Brunswick is usually one dollar, never over nine shillings. Suppose it were five dollars or ten. reckon that at its highest value. What is it compared with "stiff, sore & lame" Appraising values any how, a peice of machinerey like the human System, with such an Architect, so expensive, so perfectly finished, so nicely adjusted, so unrivalled in its uses, so astonishing in its adaptations; what is it "worth"? How shall be estimated its careless or improper use? exposure &c. until its joints are hardened & dry, its bands, stiff & cracked? the bones & joints dry & the edges irritated, the muscles stretched, stiff hard, & the nerves irritated & worn. He who does this is not only careless & improvident, but wicked.
In pleasant weather, in the Summer season, with a ~~week or two~~ plenty of Spare time some money, & a proper disposition, I would blame no one for walking. The country is at any time not very promising between P. & B. I have walked it two or three times. Did you take the Stage road.?
Nothing hardly but ~~[illegible]~~ land is the Region. If in sight of the bay, it it

none the better in winter scarcely any thing looks more dreary
(all this better a pie of leazy)
than the sea or sea shore in winter. Where could have been the Good looking County. It looks bad enough in pleasant summer weather. As for farming, there is no such thing as fencing material in the county & the soil does not bear bagging.

Second head of scolding. I do not like your uncharitableness. Perhaps you call it "minding your own business". It is crabbedness. Why could you not like a dacent feller, state the circumstances. When you left Bangor, & for what, how you left the people, & the news. where, how, & for what you went, your success, prospects &c. In fact why could you not write whatever you knew about your self or any body else, which you knew would interest me. Such a course would have been decent, reasonable, gentle manly, and brotherly. Your course is to be sure better than not writing at all. But is it right to do well when you are so abundantly able to do better

My present condition and prospects are favorable. I am a Resident Engineer at Northfield, now the principal office of the Vt. & Mass. R.R. My success & advancement have been beyond my expectations, circumstances having been most propitious. The Engineer of this Road, Edwards, with whom I engaged, left this road. I chose to remain with Mr Field with whom I have been most of the time. Under Johnson, the new Cheif engineer, Mr

Field is First Assistant; in fact has almost entire charge
this end of the line. I have, as I said, been with Field abou
since I came on; have acquired his confidence, respect & re
ship. He has come to consider that I am always in the
can succeed in doing whatever I will undertake, and
my opinion is one that can safely be followed. in fact is
to rely upon me in things he does not himself understand, whic
know is considerable for some men. My advancement
to myself almost surprising. A friend of mine, who graduated a
Bowd a year before, with highest honors, President of a College society
went into Engineering. St Lawrence Lewiston Falls & Waterville. He has
the Rod for the year almost. it is usual I expected it; should perhaps have been
And indeed I am not sure that for him who has time enough it
all the better, to acquire by long practice & habit, a minute acqua
with the minor details, as the foundation of a thorough impor
and valuable profession. But, I have been on the Road abo
three months, and I believe have already carried the Leve
self about as many days as I have the Rod hours! I h
been in the Office perhaps half the time or more for the past
months. I am not of course an Elegant Draftsman: that
quires long practice and careful training. But I have co
to be relied upon as correct & passable in drafting, as
curate in calculations, quick and clear sighted in
onometry. &c. You spoke of my wages being low. Wage
lower here much than in Maine. Common wages here for R. R
sistants is $1.00 per day, boarding themselves. they may work 30. 20 or
days in the month. Those engaging in the business permanently
tending to become Engineers, usually receive about $30. per
When I commenced, I made no sort of stipulation about wag
how. asked for a chance to work, went straight into it; ready, willing
to do any thing and every thing to make myself useful to my Sup
and Employers. I happened to be thrown in a poor party. There I was
best able of any one to assist by my knowledge or Skill, calculations
any one; and also the most able bodied, if a tree was to be c
or a log moved. I told Edwards this. As it happened he had never
with me. But his answer was simply "I know it". He paid me at
first Pay day at the rate of $33.00 per month boarding Myself.
Nothing hardly but [illegible] land is the Region

"Pay roll" has not yet come round the Second line; Changes of Engineers &c. having disarranged matters. Pay day for the two months probably be along about Jan. 1st. I am given to understand that wages are $40. per month; probably will be no higher than that until spring. although Mr Field tells me he is going to resign this division to [illegible] and I probably have, with a little assistance or oversight from him about care & responsibility of a $600, 800, a year Engineer. However you have [no] business to say any thing of small wages. In you Mercantile line, you would consider $400. a year, $33. per month good wages. I had that the first Mo. at the rate of $480 per year. Next Summer probably $300. for six months. [But] the best part of my situation is my advantages for improvement. [This] place in the Northfield is now the principal Office of this Rail Road. which is no small advantage to a young Engineer. [illegible] Yet, [illegible] me [and] the being on the spot, and having to do with the building of this [great] Bridge across the Connecticut River to this place, which is to be fully equal, by contract, superior, to any thing of the kind in U.S. built by the best Builders in the Country. Why the chance for an Engineer [is] invaluable. I do not know as I would take a Thousand dolls for it.

In my next I hope I shall have the pleasure of remitting the balance of my debt to you; I hope you have not felt the want. [I] directed a letter to you a week or two since, but judge you had not received it at the date of your last.

Tomorrow the Cars on the Vt. & Mass., run up as far as Athol. for the first time.

Cousin Joseph's little baby is sick, or was last night. Next Thursday [evening] is to be a "Donation Party" at the house of Rev. Mr Jones. Oh Dear what shall I "carry in my hand"? Our admonitions on the score of Writing entirely past hope upon our brother Eliab[?] [Will] you please to write frequently. particularly, and much.

I expect this letter will find you at Bangor.

Aff. J. S.

[illegible]
Dec 28

5

J. M. Metcalf Esq.
Bangor
Maine

Isaac;
King Chapel in Brunswick, Ch[illegible].
My journey to Portland. His
[illegible]. Comm. [illegible] Bridge
Dec 22 1847

Northfield. Jan. 12th 1848.

Dear Brother

Your last letter was received I believe on New Years Eve. It contained a request that I would answer it about Jan. 1st so as to renew the postage. I would gladly have done so, but as I had written you twice within a shortly, I thought it best to wait at least until I obtained some thing to enclose to render it worth the Postage. Said something has been expected daily ever since. It has not yet arrived. soon afterwards I will endeavor to despatch this now begun upon sheet.

Simultaneous with the reception of yours was that of one from Nancy, inviting me to present myself at her Wedding which is to take place tomorrow Eve. That I cannot so do is at present a considerable source of Mourning to me.

I am much obliged to you for the unusual amount of fact on the first page of your letter, namely the incident of your late journey. How does your frozen ear trouble you? How many weeks did it take you to recover? Out side Creditors are all except a few friends perhaps, specially secured.

Whatever the other effects of the Lyceum difficulties may be, it has probably benefitted Dr. Pomroy. I do not mean his reputation, for I know nothing of the effect thereupon; but it was a good thing to stir him up. Your Quotation from Festus just now strikes me. I should not say "Sorrow is the base of all great thoughts. but Sorrow is the spur inciting the thoughts of the Enlarged Mind. L. L. Pomroy D.D. is a large man but for years the even easy tenor of his life has lacked the spur which trouble, vexation, corners, embarrassments — Sorrow would give.

Your remarks upon Correspondence are excellent. I have not just now thought enough about me to frame an excuse for my deficiencies. It is very natural, for one constantly occupied with with thoughts of very different things, when trying to write letters, the mind feeling that it should be only a change, as an unbending, or relaxation, to write many words and few thoughts.

A quotation in your letter strikes me as most always true. My thoughts are much disposed to "tangle passing o'er the lip", usually.

just now. it is Thursday eve; while I think of it, do you remember a Miss Stevens from Guilford Centre, at Tuscroft Academy? A Mr. Piper whom with I have become acquainted, lately informed me that his wife having formerly been such a Miss Stevens of Guilford, & attended said academy, thought she had formerly known me or those of my name there. Pressingly invited I this evening have called. Said Mrs. P. is a very pleasant lady; called one of the first of Northfield. She was probably at school at T. when you were first under the administration of Messrs. Thurston & Dole. perhaps afterwards.

You speak of my remarks upon Connecticut River bridge at Northfield. The contract has a specification to this effect. (now copied from original document in my hand) "In fine all the materials & mechanical labor on said bridge to be of the best quality, and superior to that of any Rail Road Structure in New England." Is that strange or impossible? You speak of "stone or iron bridges". We have an abundance of just such stone arches as you speak of on this road, as well as every where else. We do not call them "bridges". They are "Culverts" of different kinds "Arch Culverts" perhaps; over brooks, roads &c. This is a "Bridge" you may call it a stone, iron, or wood. The granite Masonry will be founded upon about 1000 Piles. In the 4 Abutments & 3 Piers there will probably be ~~about~~ perhaps 5000 Perches of hammered Stone, 25 Cubic feet to Perch no course to be less than 20 inches in thickness &c &. "In fine the quality & workmanship of the Masonry to be superior to any Rail Road Masonry, wet or dry, in N.E." The Wood (& Iron), is to be "Howe's Patent" Truss work. — regular Rail Road bridge with all improvements, and an unusual amount of iron Work. The Contract is very minute, some ten or dozen pages, surmounted with the expression I quoted you. Height of Bridge from top of piles from 60 to 70 feet. As for the cost, it would probably be less than such a bridge at Bangor. One of the best Quarries in the world, where they have started 3000 tons of Stone

(Upside down, top margin:) Send the Letter too if so

at a blast, and cleaves square as a brick, within 4 miles. [illegible] hill. Timber abundant. You speak of the space to be filled at the Ends. The bridge builders have nothing to do with moving Earth. It would be something of an item, an embankment 20 or 30 feet for two or three thousand feet in length.

You ask if the R.R. bridges are ~~[illegible]~~ Covered bridges. For R.R. bridges usually not. They may be or not, as it pleases. The general plan patent is the same in all. different modifications.

Postage on letters to Bangor I think ought not to be double. The ordinary Mail Route via Railroads & Boston may be two or three miles over the Legal 300. But there are certainly Mail routes via Keene & Portsmouth which would be very much less. I think the fault must be in your [illegible]. [illegible] my Bangor letters are to me thus Charged, [illegible] since.

You say the name of the new Bank in Bangor is nearly the same as Kenduskeag. Which letter or letters of said name do they alter, or is it amended as well as altered?

I am impatient to receive the Poetical productions of which you speak; hope they will come by the earliest opportunity. Did I tell you that I had received a pressing invitation to Lecture before the Warwick Lyceum? I am however both too much engaged in other matters, and too intellectually indolent to attempt any such thing (in any matters not connected with my business, which I am obliged to enter into.

The Pressure of the Money Market is Awful. To raise money hereabouts they say is impossible. Stock holders will not pay in Assessments. December estimates on Vt. & Mass. were a few days since met by Sixty days Drafts. These Drafts, best of paper possible, they find it impossible to get Cashed, discounted, at Banks of City or Country. While a few months since [illegible] did not need go to the Banks, they would send their agents 150 ms. to cash Drafts for Contractors. What the poor Contractors will do I know not. dependent of course upon these Monthly estimates to pay men and all Expenses. They have already reduced wages of laborers to $.70 per day, going lower. How the poor beings live I hardly see.

[illegible] Brother — this day is Jan. 27. [illegible] to-day, after so long
[illegible] my Wages for the Months of Nov. [illegible]
Enclosed [illegible] Fitchburg Bank XX. [illegible] E. [illegible]
Williston July 2^d 1845
C. Torrey cashier. J. Perkins. Prest. Of which $15.00 is
you on Note, and interest probably some. Then that Valu[e]
yours which I have. If there is "any thing over" th[ere is]
a book which I wish you to purchase and send up to [me]
"Six Lectures on the Uses of the Lungs" by Samuel Sheldon [illegible]
If the book has another title it is "Causes & Cure of Consum[ption]"
Remember, I am particular about the book. it may save valua[ble]
Probable cost $.50 cent, or thenceforward to a dollar.

I am impatient to hear how you survive these Money [times]
It [illegible] affirmed to be positively awful. Nothing like it eve[r]
[illegible]. Unfinished Railroads are "all of a heap": sawing the[m]
[illegible] short as much as possible, on this road they have even
[dis]missed part of the Engineering Corps. I may congratula[te]
myself upon being retained while others longer in servi[ce]
who might reasonably be supposed better are discharged.
However the last rumor is that the prospect is they will be [unable]
to weather it, will have to stop altogether. That would [of]
course throw engineers as well as all others out of Employ, and [you]
might expect to see me down East before long.
But I guess they will contrive somehow to keep along, and I [shall]
probably remain if any do. If I thought a "Total Squash"
probable I do not know but I should send you $40.^{00} instead of [$20].
I must spend $20, or so in Clothing &c. And I was intending to [spend]
$25.00 or 30.00 to purchase of Mathematical Instruments, Engineer[ing]
Books &c. Perhaps I better not do it until times are surer.
Pray write to me soon, on or before the 1st Prox.

This letter is not worth much, except for the XX, but it wi[ll]
have to go. I will try to do better another time
Please write soon, send on the Poetical effusions which you wrote &c.

Yours. Aff. [illegible]

Isaac.
Conn. R. Bridge. Postage.
Money matters. 20$ enclosed
Jany 12 - Rec 1845

5

Northampton Ms
Jany 20

Mr. J. M. Metcalf
Bangor
Maine

Northfield Mass. Feb. 6th 1848.

Dear Brother

On returning last eve to Northfield, after my peregrinations of the week through forests, fields, and many snows, I found, among others, an exceeding letter from thee, with the excellent and much contents of which, my mind for the evening and night being filled, thereto, after the accustomed services of the day & sanctuary, [wi]th most readily and naturally recur. The probability now [be]ing that the ensuing week, like its immediate predecessor, will [b]y me spent away from my habitual place of abode, and under such [ci]rcumstances as to put all thoughts of correspondence at considerable [d]istance from my thomind; therefore being seated take I pen in hand.

Very many matters in thy Epistle are every way worthy of minute attention, and careful, thoughtful reply. Whether I shall have time, opportunity, or ability to give such as they deserve is at best doubtful.

Firstly, however, let me introduce here that which in glancing at your letter comes first to mind. Did you ever read a Tragedy in five acts, called "Julius Cæsar" written long time ago by one William Shakespeare, King of English? If so, do you remember the remarks put in the mouth of the Hero of the tragedy respecting a certain Caius Cassius? The book which contains it, may be known in Northfield, but at any rate I do not see it; as for quoting from Memory: I might about as well depend upon memory for a Table of Logarithms as for the words of any Author, Ancient or Modern. However, in the expression to which I allude, Julius would beware of that "Lean Cassius" as a man who "thinks too much." Now the thought has struck me that if ever a man was formidable on that score, your self might well be dreaded. Whether or not you are "Lean as Cassius", not having seen

either lately, I cannot well say. At any rate, I have come to the conclusion we l[...]
that you are a "thinking man". Now I have quite a large acquaintance [...]
among Young Men, many of them men of Education, of refined, 1840 I le[...]
tivated, and well disciplined minds, so called; but it does not a Greek
occur to me that I would be willing to warrant any one of the it di[...]
really thinking as much in one week as you do in one day. left (I[...]
and as, or myself, who from advantages of Education, extensive & varied reading, one [...]
in several respects, fair opportunities; might reasonably be expected, [...] their energies
for comparison; I have no reason for judging that I think as much [...]
in one month, or have say in the month last past, as you appears [...]
to one hour: that is, when the thinking mood comes over you. [...]
[...]ow I think of it, there is in your letter, if I can find it, a passage [...] it
my Mental indolence. I do most fully, and most heartily confess the [...]
charge. It is a thing which has troubled me a good deal. it is a mat[...]
upon which I have really thought, or tried, or pretended, to think, more [...]
or less, occasionally. I have tried to imagine a cause, or a reason [...]
I have been half flattering myself with the idea that perhaps as I had been for three or
or four years mostly occupied intellectually rather than physically, it was somewhat
natural, if not reasonable, that the Mind should claim a space of rest [...]
of relaxation from constant exertion. But I do not know as the flimsy defence [...]
would stand against your argument and theory. Still some things [...]
my experience would appear to confirm such an idea, I mean an idea that [...]
the mind may gain strength and ability for exertion from inactivity. Yo[...]
E.G. You & I both when very young in Boston were precocious, prematurely scholars & Readers [...]
Now do you believe that if we had remained there under similar circumstances [...]
that should have ever matured into sound minds, even as we now are?
Was not the perfect change, relaxation, in fact the full giving up of that usually [...]
called Mental Culture, was it not necessary to further healthy development?
I was not probabably as good a scholar when I first went to Bangor to school

e when we left Boston. Was not my mind stronger & better developed?
... my memory of course serves me little. In another case it does much.
...ced, 1840 I left Bangor, after a year or two of hard study, my mind full of Latin
...ot & Greek; my brain stretched with thinking all it was able to think;
... that it did not amount to much at that. And a season of more
...ay. Best / Mental indolence & inactivity than followed in my mind
...ing, one has experienced. But how was it? did my mental
...r energies in that season of inactivity, rust out and decay away?
...mean, no: when I look back it hardly seems possible that two or three
...years could make so much difference, could so much, bring forth,
...velope, & strengthen the intellectual powers. I can hardly realise
...e it the same mind I carried from Bangor, which accompanied
... me to Foxcroft and to the halls of Old Bowdoin
...at, I return to your letter. You ask my opinion of Mexican Affairs
...m absolutely and diametrically opposed to the present War on all grounds
...and points; its commencement, its violences, its honors, its glories, its rea
...ns, its causes, its effects, its prospects, its future progress, its all.
...But you ask how to get out of the scrape. It becomes me not to say. Callous Congress
... the mightiest minds of the Country, perhaps of the world, have brought forward their
...plans, different plans. John & Henry & Daniel have spoken; their arguments
... I may not gainsay, their facts I cannot dispute. If they do not agree
...upon conclusions, am I competent to decide. One word, I hope
... you do not use in its common, universal sense. Honor, National honor.
... Private honor as usually understood, even that, Old Falstaff told it nearer the
... the truth than the ten thousands that have laughed at him.
But National honor; — what is it — the falsest, meanest thing
that man — man, the politician — has ever invented, the abominable
pretence of governments, the ridiculous bugbear of foolish subjects; the worst
enemy of humanity — Let the very word be accursed among
peoples.

The very word itself is a lie: its idea is the meanest folly, the
[illegible]dest robbery and Murder.

... [illegible] use the word in a different sense: but in such sense
such a thing never existed. An honorable government the
world never saw: it is a moral impossibility

Man, single man, is a moral being, ~~that is~~ he may be
an upright, honorable being. But two men together [illegible]
of them is a moral being, together they are not, cannot be a
moral being. The old ~~proverb~~ that "Corporations have no soul"
is but an axiom. If true of a body corporate, what must
it be of a body politic? A nation can no more have a
conscience than a tenpenny nail can have a human heart.

What is a Whig? What is a Democrat? What is Dem-
ocracy? What are Whig Principles? Who can answer
these questions? It is said that all Educated men without [illegible]
tive, prejudice, or interest to the contrary are Whigs in this County.
It is certain that the large majority of Educated men are Whigs. and
the Boston Post would find fault with Education itself on those grounds.
Does Whig mean one opposed to Democracy? If so I am one heartily. I am
not a Democrat, even in the best sense of the word. I can not agree
with either Motto "The largest liberty to all". "The government is best which
governs least". Is the late Great Argument of Danl Webster before
the Supreme Court on the Rhode Island Case, against Hallett. — are the
arguments Whig principles versus the Democracy of Hallett? But D.
Webster is nearer a Democrat than I am; that is if he utters his real sen-
timents. Few Public men do when they speak to the people. Their true senti[ments]
would not please the people. Suppose I wanted to go to Congress, or wanted any
other station in gift of people. How would it do to express my true sentiments
Why they might startle even you. Democracy is a government of the people
It is a name dear to the people of this country as it was to the people of Greece and
Rome. It is the mightiest word in the vocabulary of the Demagogue; it has always [illegible]
But there are three things in which I have not the slightest faith. The Right of the
people to govern themselves. The Ability of the people to govern themselves, the Expediency
of the people governing themselves. Three Mighty things rise up in my mind
against Democracy. The Word of God, Human Nature. The History of the World

I believe I am not a Monarchist. Though I believe that, with one condition [illegible]
an Absolute Monarchy would the best possible of human Governments.
I believe I am a Republican, fully so. A Republic is the form of Gov. I [illegible]
as a perfect one; it cannot be in this world. or [illegible] in any theory. But all things con-
sidered the best, that is the one most susceptible of improvement, and best fitted to this world.
A Republican form of Gov. is perhaps the wisest & boldest scheme of man. It is a mighty attempt to
remedy evils by evils. a mighty scheme of checks & balances.

...r remarks upon a Mexican Great Man are pretty good, perhaps somewhat ...tinged with "Carlyleism." You look upon Europe as requiring a great ...n. Where? It has now at least one Great Man. Nicholas

...ur ideas upon Sea Shore scenes versus Summer landscapes are well expressed and perhaps good, but I cannot ...ree with them fully. The warm bright Meadow glittering in sunlight, the happy ...rove enlivened by the music of birds & breezes, the quiet river bank, are not all "...eceitful shine, deceitful show" They are true pictures. They are the hand writing ...Him Who cannot lie. This World is not all a gloomy prison house of Mind. ...is a bright & a beautiful World, full of objects of gratitude & contentment. ...be sure the roses have thorns, and the Meadows have thistles & briars. But shall ...not enjoy the sweetness of the rose because I may prick my finger with the thorns? ...hall I not walk the Meadow because I may, if I go barefoot, hurt my foot ...ith a thistle? I say it is Man's duty to be happy in this world. He is de...eating the designs of God if he is not. He should, it is true, be careful of the thorns, but he should go confidently forward to gather the roses.

To understand Drawing would certainly be great assistance. A knowledge of Perspective must be requisite in drafting buildings especially. I think I must endeavor to acquire such knowledge, though very many Engineers do not. An engineer is not necessarily a real draftsman, or a draftsman an engineer.

As for politics; I "read the papers". As an American I am interested in the political affairs of U.S.A. As a Man & a scholar in those of Europe & the World.

You say my December prospects seem shaded. I do not know. It is hard times to be sure; but others feel it, not I. I have gone steadily onward in prosperity: my wages, my responsibilities, my prospects constantly increasing and brightening. My success (spite of mental indolence) has been perfect, beyond my expectations or even hopes.

Sat. eve. Feb. 12th. Well we have got back from Brattleboro. It has been a very cold week, and people have complained bitterly of the cold. I have been extremely comfortable, and laughed at the jest about "Down East Weather". The fact is I am tough. I have the coldest business too as Instrumentalist, standing still about all the time. The day though I pulled M. Cat. & showed Cass... how to Cut trees.

Looking at your letter, I find you ask the difference between "Alter" & "Amend". I re
Have you not such a friend as Old Noah? However the old Chap is not an in you
of mind. I scarcely remember now whether I obtained my ample knowledge of derivation old w
definitions from intuition, or from a smattering of Latin & Greek which rattled
in my boyhood. At any rate I think that, translated into Saxon. "Alter" is to "Change
"Amend" to "Change for the better". "Pray who is Nancy Mo
One of my dearest friends, Miss Nancy B. Whitman of Turner, on the 9th some
of last month, became Mrs. E. Merrill Talbot of Portsmouth N. H. is lea
Her husband formerly of Turner Me. is an Engineer on Portsmouth & Concord, not

Now I think of it, & partly in reply to your request of advice as to reading
I have, or had certain books left in Charge of My Sister Lucy, who I suspect had per
been reading them with both pleasure & profit. I advise you to get & read, get
the three Volumes of "Uphams Mental Philosophy" in order. then "Waylands Moral Sci
then, if you please Bishop Butler. I want to convince you you had bet
but I hardly know what reasons to the contrary to argue against. I can
of nothing better for you. You may say "time". It does not take much
for a thinking man to read Upham & do it thoroughly. If there is in the
World such a thing as "Science made easy" it is in those works of
Upham. it is a style perhaps unequalled in English for simple beauty they
So plain you would think it required no thought at all. it does not
understand it; yet it expresses fully the thoughts of that by some called the greater
of Sciences, the Science of Mind. The Style is easy & diffuse it is true, with
repetition perhaps; but still you might read many books & excite fewer ideas. it.
Butler's Analogy is exactly different in point of Style

Is there not the Great command "Go ye into all the World & preach the gospel &c." that

| Certain interrogatories. | Answers. |
|---|---|
| Am I a fool? | I think you are. |
| How much & what lack I? | Lack of Brains. |
| What am I? | See above |
| What ails me? | The very question I wished to ask! |

Acknowledge the receipt of your correct & busi-
ness like &c &c. Why did you send that note
to me? Why not yourself destroy it? What
is business form in such case? Why keep it

-reven I received your letter, I thought I would with this letter send to you $40.00 if I received my wages in season; as you wrote that you would use it, & probably better than I should. But I have been up to Battleboro lately you know, have purchased new coat &c. some books &c. & perhaps may not have enough besides to pay my board &c.

Money however has not come round. though I have signed Pay Roll. It will be some 40. or 41.00. I have thought that perhaps I could not do better this season than on receipt of my Monthly Stipend to forward what I did not immediately need to your Charge. I do not care about sending money to Jo. McKinly my creditor at Old Bend. till the year is out. Aug. and perhaps it would hold out full as well in your keeping as mine. If I get a start in my business this year & pay up the hundred I owe I shall be satisfied. Can I not lay up $500. the next? — if —

Your remarks on conversation with companions are just. I think you have been unfortunate in Room Mates: though I do not know but you have had good as an average. Still they have not been right. I wish you & Elisha would room together. I rather think it would be good for both.

Your reflections on receipt of letter from Milo I have thought upon. They are worthy of thought. I will think thereon further. First, Was there any thing in the letter received to induce such thoughts? If so, you might in justice to have communicated. Your thoughts are of "probabilities". I can not think in that light. possibilities. It is wise to foresee evil & be prepared for it. Still I think you are far too much inclined to look upon the dark side of things, especially of human Nature. True the worst things are "possible" whenever that is an element in the contingency, but in such case we have no right to say it is probable, to expect it, scarcely even to think it. I am afraid you are inclined from some reason to judge too harshly of one of our brothers. You look upon the worst side of his Character. & perhaps circumstances with your own Character & feelings have shown you the worst part of that. You do not do justice to his Character: the unstained virtues of his life; ~~the first~~ filial & fraternal excellencies he has shown.

At any rate, at the worst a gloomy thought can think, thank God.
Mothers youngest sons are what they are. All, Each, or any one, of them
know, able, willing, happy to maintain her declining years if
and that to be so that to be as necessary as seem, not so much duty as pleasure
Of course, family difficulty, or quarrel, there will not, must not,
shall not, be. As for the precaution you propose, I think highly
of! Hope you will go forward, and set the example immediately.

You seem glad that "Big Bugs" R.R. Co.s &c. take the worst
it in the present monetary difficulties. Is that right? Which suppose
occasions the most trouble the embarrassment of a thousand small
merchants for example, or that of one great Manufacturing Co. or R.R.
In neither case is there any suffering in the principals. Not to mention
Many Overseers, Engineers &c &c. who earn their livelihood not by their money
but by their labor; just look at the thousands of poor laborers in the
ploy of a single company; their wages as now cut down to $,70, 60 per
,50 per day. Board not less than $2,50 per week. Perhaps three ... as
are out of employ entirely; What shall those laborers, what shall their
families do? To say nothing of the thousands less intimately connected with the
for every such thing benefits more or less every producer, near.

Feb. 22d. Well, it seems I have not sent this letter yet. Several reasons
have detained it. One, that I wanted to send some money in it, and that does
not even yet come along. I thought at first I would send $40.00, but it has
been along so I have not but two or three dollars left, then board & every thing
And now I do not know but I must get a case of Instruments immediately
and that ought to cost 25, or 30 dolls. In which case there would not be much
to send to you. Another reason of delay, we have been far more than usually busy
since return from Brattleboro. Another, you sent some poetry desiring my
"criticism"! and I did not know how to criticise, & kept waiting, hoping
some thought or other might possibly happen to hit me, to give me something
to write on that subject; but I do not know but I shall be obliged to
give it up. There is to be a Temperance Celebration this eve Wash
ington's Birthday, I have got to go, and I suppose try to make a speech! Oh Dear.
Then I have got to be up, out on the bridge, to over see pile driving all the rest of the night
And to begin with I feel like a "Stewed fool" today. I do not know whether
because I ran away with another man's wife last night, or because I slept
to much after it, or because it is a drizzly, foggy day today.

There are often many things in your letters which I should best answer by some reference to
Proverbial Philosophy, but it is sometimes too much trouble to hunt up what I want. I advise you to
attentively reperuse said book, knowing that whatever you find therein is exactly my sentiments. I do not know
whether Tupper thought with my brains, or not.

Jos. M. Metcalf. I think that as a writer you possess considerable merits. Whether you excel most in prose or poetry, I shall not undertake to decide. Your prose writings, as far as I have seen them, certainly exhibit a considerable and very commendable degree both of vigor and excellence of thought, and of correctness and terseness of style. They show also in my opinion, what, in a young writer, is especially valuable, a capability of improvement. They show a vigorous and well disciplined mind, capable of active thought, and also of acquiring the power or faculty of illustrating and moulding that thought, forming it into those shapes and sounds of strength and beauty which make it truly valuable.

What you most need appears to me to be a more extended knowledge of general literature, a fuller acquaintance with the most valuable writers — a study of them, not merely either as a seeker of thought, of ideas, but an acquaintance with such writings as Mediums of thought, as Styles.

You perhaps lack, in ease & beauty of expression, in aptness and power of illustration. It is not the mere statement of facts or of arguments which is especially valuable; it is rather the dressing up, comparing and illustrating those facts and arguments so as to make them not please the ear alone, but excite the attention, ... they ... the mind, take it captive by a sort of ... power ... —

There I have forgot what I was last writing.

Your poetical productions, I suppose those peices in your last were yours, I should think had the same excellencies & same defects as those which I have mentioned above. By the way I am no judge of poetry and entirely unable to criticise it. I did once try to write verses

I had a letter from Milo informing me of the great event, born of a "son and heir", as Lucy has it, to the "house of Rich". Lucy has been recently at Bangor, What think of her health.

though you well know I never could, but I gave it up h
entirely long ago. Do not know as I have tried to write
a rhyme since my first year at Bowdoin. Do not know
as I ever shall, — without I should happen to fall in love — ap

However, I think those peices of yours really have considerable melo
The thought is good. Thought should never be sacrificed to rhym
I have lost my taste for rhyme in a great measure. It spoils
poetry to have a line put in merely to make a rhyme, as it
too frequently the case. My taste in these matters is very differ
now from formerly. It is now only thought & metre I care for
The longest of those pieces I like. Its moral is good, as well as it
intellectual, & harmonick. "Slaughtered sons, Victims of
That expression, though it may be strictly correct, would hardly seem
first & most. Mars has acquired so much notoriety as a War God, th
people generally look with distrust upon the pretensions of any other,
cept it be some old Scandinavian scamp or other. I believe I like the
verses near the end best of that piece or part of the long ones before.
he or two line I marked. Leaving out 4 or 5 lines, the long lines with th
short ones, and the last 12 for a moral, I like very well.

"The grey Haired" is quite smooth and pretty, is of that class of poetry wh
Melody & beauty of expression should be sought rather than thought; pleasi
rather than instructive. You know too I am in favor of such thing
It is in good taste too, without she makes too much fuss about it.

The other peice, would perhaps by some be called the best. The first stanza
reminds me of something of Longfellow's I cannot now tell what
perhaps it would be better without the last two lines though

...ing. I have just been thinking of the natural or probable influence of the business of En-gineering upon the Character & disposition. Would it be similar to that of Slave holding? Every one around is obliged to do exactly as the Engineer says. Every thing & every body is at his direction. Here for instance is a Contractor who has perhaps hundreds of men at work for him, as near slaves as they can be, but no more so than he is to the Engineer, and not half so careful or fearful of displeasing him. Here for instance am I, poor as Job's cat, often one of the shabbiest looking fellows you see in the street, to be sure obliged to attend exactly to my superiors, but hundreds of men perfectly subservient to me. Rich old Contractors, full of money & horses, perfect Nabobs among Irishmen, bound to the very intimation of a will, ready perhaps to go further out of their way to please me than they would to save ... of their men's lives. What is the moral effect of this? To make a man imperious, arbitrary, despotic.

But there is another ~~effect of this~~ view of this case. An Engineer has Authority, in order that he may also have Responsibility: and that is ... most ... an unpleasant thing. And I am inclined to think that a most usual effect is a sort of dread of exercising authority, knowing how closely it is connected with responsibility.

If this letter should ever reach you, I hope you will not delay answering it longer than till the next day, it is the best way to repay my long delay.

By the way, I want you immediately to write me what you can about the "Sons of Temperance". They are supposed to be very much needed in this place. I, ~~having been~~ coming from where the Order exists, & having been known to speak highly of it, am of considerable consequence just now in Temperance Community; may be drawn into it in spite of myself. Write. Please put my brothers & sisters in mind of me. Aff. S. S.

Isaac -
Feb. 3 to March 1845.

Learn reasons that thinks so much thinker. Mental indolence satirized. Mexican affairs. National Honor. Annexation. Duty to be happy. Nancy. Upham's Mental Philosophy. Pay roll postponed. Criticisms upon my writing and upon oratory of A. M. Effects of authority upon the possessor.

Pd

Mr. J. A. M. [illegible] Jr.
Bangor Maine

[illegible]

Northfield. March 9th. 1848.

Dear Brother:

It is but a short time since I sent to you a letter, and that one of considerable length. But certain things intended to be remitted in that letter, having failed of so doing: I think to forward this also, hoping to receive to both an answer right speedily.

I suppose there will be no necessity of troubling myself to think in relation to the "Materiel" of this letter, as the what I may happen to write is not considered or intended as the matters of most importance.

With this letter I will remit to you; first -- Sundry newspaper articles which I intended to transmit by my last, but, sealing up in haste, carelessly omitted so to do. Second, $20.00 (Fitchburg XX, No. 478, E.) with which you may credit me, till I want it. Keep it for me, and if it is worth any thing to you, and you have it long enough to make it worth awhile, allow me interest therefor. Rather a small way it is these Big Uns take to save a Copper in these hard Money times. This Ninth day of March at Eve I have just received my wages for the month of January. I suppose they think the interest of $10.00, or even $100.00 for a month or two is not much to any one, but that of the few thousands a Pay Roll would amount to is worth their saving. I expected that Feb. would come with it, but it appears not ——

I do not know as I can write any news — You have probably heard of the Irish laborer's "Strike" on the Rail Roads here. Their wages have been very low here for the Winter, and on the first of March they simultaneously, on "Vt. & Mass." "Conn. River." "Cheshire" "Vt. Central", "Rutland" &c. Rail Roads stopped work, demanding higher wages. Something of the same kind too I believe in Maine "Portland & Kennebec". If any refused to join in the "Strike" the rest sometimes in bodies of some hundreds marching along the line compel them to stop work, in some cases proceeding to violence and the destruction of property. Many have anticipated trouble here, some among those likely to meet it, arm themselves; but there has been no difficulty and I presume will be none. I was out on the work of Messrs Kimm & Flynn, Sec. 45, over the River, when a considerable party of the "Paddies" aforesaid, part came over the line and compelled their men, who had kept at work, to quit. They had some scolding among themselves, but none carried weapons of any kind, and all were perfectly civil. They did not even stop the work of the masons who were laying stone on the same Section.

I am now employed a considerable part of the time at the Big Bridge, at the Connecticut River, where the work is now going on pretty rapidly. I have the general direction of the Pile Driving, and attend to matters and things, so that I am on the works there perhaps half the time. It is a very good chance for me, to see business and learn to understand thoroughly an important part of my profession. By the way, we have men here who worked on the Bangor Bridge last year.

John Quincy Adams. in many respects, and all things considered, the greatest man in the world, at the time of his death.

I suppose you have seen the splendid tributes to his Memory in Congress & Elsewhere. Some of the warmest too from those who had been his bitterest political enemies.

Did not Edward Everett get off a great Eulogy? and Ex Gov. Seward in New York also? I have not seen as the Legislature of Maine are likely [illegible] to get off any thing.

That strange man Theodore Parker got off a great Sermon, or what some of them call a sermon, last Sabbath, in Boston. I have seen it, but not read it much.

Parker is certainly a Genius, although a strange one.

Have you ever seen the new Review, "The Mass. Quarterly" Edited by Parker, Ralph Waldo Emerson (whom you do not perhaps consider the greatest Writer America has ever produced, as some Europeans do) and [illegible]. One cannot, whatever he thinks of these men, or the tendency of their doctrines, help admiring the hearty good will, or whole souled earnestness, or Mad strength, with which they tear away at the foundations of whatever they happen to think Error, falsehood, or Oppression.

I hope to hear from you soon

P.S.
March 10th. Your letter and Annis enclosed just received which I open this to acknowledge You have certainly an "aggravatin" way of telling news. Viz. that lecture, and the bargain you mentioned. Did you ever realise such a thing as particulars? Do not let your letter be very long delayed, if you can avoid it.

Affly J. G.

Affc. J. J.

Isaac.
Strike by laborers on R.R.
Death of J. Q Adams—
Ralph W. Emerson

March 9 1848.

Northampton Ms
Mch 11

10

Mr J. M. Metcalf
Bangor
Maine

Apr 1848

Dear Brother Joseph. I am constantly expecting a letter from you, Am tomorrow expecting to go to Brattleboro, for a few days. After my return & reception of your letter, shall probably write as soon as convenient. Just now having leisure moment, & happening to think of it, commence this. One thing ~ After despatching the letter to which your last of the 20th ult. was in reply, I addressed to you another containing a XX. Fitchburg. You did not mention the receipt, perhaps it did not reach Bangor until you were gone to Mass. on your journey. It was probably Mailed about March 9th. I should perhaps have mentioned it in my last. But it is probably all right somehow.

I received a day or two since a letter from Sister Lucy, from which I learned that you were then at Milo. The letter contained also a note or two from you, written there. In answer to One Question. I am the owner of a very respectable copy of "Vattel's Law of Nations, by Chitty". a favorable specimen of the work as used for a Text Book at "Old Bowdoin". I was not intending to sell the Book; although it is rather a costly article; (price some $4.00 I think) and is very saleable, at Brunswick at least: I could have sold that for more than it cost me. But I wanted to keep it. However, one Copy of the Work, is full as much as you and I both are likely to need, for the present: And - You are entirely welcome to the Use of it; in fact, I am most happy to have you use it, ~ until I happen to want it; which, on present appearances, is likely to be Not soon.

You speak of some of my Books to be sold ~ You were unfortunate, though, in the title you placed at the head of the list - "Hitchcock's Geology". That is a book I bought not because Alma Mater told me to, but because I wanted it. If sold, I should buy again as soon as I could get where it is. I thought it was in my trunk when I came here. and have wanted it twice its worth, but disliked to buy a duplicate, when I could get the first soon.

As to Sale of Books, I intended before I left College, to sell what Books I did not want, which were saleable: did sell many; left some, French Books &c to be disposed of by friends. "Sallustii Opera" might have shared the same fa[te] "Cambridge Mechanics" I shall want. "Enfield" I considered it a duty to se[ll] Old Bowdoin of. Even if poor, one should be willing to do a dollar or two for "Alma Mater" However, there may be some Books which could be sold for something: But I am sure I cannot think the Names of half now. All better wait. I shall be there in a few weeks now. perhaps in a fortnight.

April 24th. This letter has not yet been sent or finished, neither have I yet received a letter expected from You. I have been writing to Sister Anne, was intending also to Eliza but I believe can not now. guess I will do up these & send.

I shall probably be in Bangor soon, perhaps within a fortnight — may be Next Week early, may be not.

What I want now is a Bangor Paper, some means of knowing the Steamboat Arrangements, so as to decide upon my course when I do start. I want to go by R.R. to Portland, so as to stop a few hours at Portsmouth N.H.

I was intending to send You XX by this letter, but will not now

Isaac . April 1848

national pride. Form & right of government. [illegible]
Revolution. Misery. Ambition

You have never read "Julius Caesar". You ought. I believe I once walked unexpectedly in upon you, one Sat. Eve, and found you reading a much inferior work of the same Author. You remember perhaps abundant extracts from said J. Caesar in certain School Books.

Why are you lean? Do they not keep you well? Do you not Exercise? Do you call a man a good swimmer because he swims every day, or because he has learned to swim and can swim? Perhaps I better inform you this last sentence refers to disciplined thinking minds.

I should like to drop the subject of "Mental Indolence". (This may be construed as a perfect submission to your views; or as "feeling somewhat sore on that point." Either) Commonsense = Mental health. Versus Commonsense = Mental Strength.

You say I mean the lowest & worse sense of "National honor" Show me any better or higher, that really means any thing of the kind. What good has National honor ever done? War, pestilence, famine, murder, highway robbery, arson, have done good. Such a thing as National-purse I can hardly understand; such a thing as National-pride I can imagine: National-Conscience I can not even get up an idea of. I tell you God never created, never designed any other responsibility than individual responsibility, any other conscience than individual conscience. If there was such a thing what good could it do? The individual resp. or cons. has precious little influence over most.

You speak of Reforms. Take the Temperance Reform. Did you ever know, or hear of a case of reform influenced clearly by conscience? If so was it individual or National?

Where is the right to govern? naturally, perhaps, in ~~him born head of the oldest branch of the first family~~, the first born, if he is fit for it. In a system of government instituted directly by God, He had subordinates, those to whom he delegated authority, but there was no Election, there was hereditary succession in the Priesthood the noblest office in the world, no representation. Will it not be so in a Millennium? I am not sure that there is any other right in Governments than the "Divine Right" It amounts to ~~that~~ in all forms in the End. The right to govern was in Oliver Cromwell, and that simply because he was the man capable of doing it. In that particular I do most fully agree with Carlyle. God in mercy & blessing to England, Europe & the world, called Oliver to the throne of England. No man ever set on that throne by a higher or a more legitimate authority; was ever less an usurper.

Is the authority of the Pres. U.S. any better than that of Nicholas? Does it not come from the same source, but by a much more roundabout course.

For my part, I am not perfectly fixed yet upon this point, the favorite & according to some the [illegible] idea of Republicans; upon the right, any more than the ability of "the People" to govern themselves.

It is, and it must ever be the favorite, in fact the one Essential dogma of Demagogues. But I am a good deal inclined to believe, with their opponents, that such an origin and sanction of government is not really at heart, recognised by such men & minds as Vinton and Webster, and Marsh, and Evans, any more than it is by the master minds of other countries or other times. The older & the wiser a statesman grows, the more he thinks perhaps, the less hold this idea has upon him. A really great mind may be radical in youth, may be democratic in early maturity, but as true as truth & honesty influence it, Age, wisdom, & experience will make it Conservative. I have considered Guizot as one of the greatest & wisest, and also one of the very best statesmen that Europe has ever produced: probably the very first in his own Country. He was too the very "embodiment" we might say, of the Enlightened liberal, Constitutional, principles of France; the principles of La Fayette; Republican principles. Yet this same Guizot, taught (as we may suppose) as La Fayette was, by much wisdom and hard experience, how utterly incapable the people, French people, were of governing themselves aright, and patriot like, endeavoring, for their good, to guide and govern them properly, was the one against whom the present French Revolution appears principally to be directed. I much doubt whether the French will soon see as good a government again. What the result of this Revolution is like to be, I cannot really decide in my mind. With the character of one man I do not understand fully. With Odillon Barrot.

Webster's Rhode Island Argument, I have not read: have you? You call it a "mere Lawyers plea" and "flimsy". It may be so. But it was certainly a very important case; and one of the greatest subjects he, or any one else, ever spoke upon. I do not judge him a man to be "flimsy" on such an occasion. Moreover, if that did not influence the Court something else did: the U.S. Supreme Court, perhaps the grandest judicial tribunal in the world, full Bench, Taney, Woodbury, & all, previously disposed to the contrary, I believe, decided in favor of his side, maugre the days & weeks of argument, fact, precedent or what not, brought forward by the opposing Counsel.

I repeat it sunshine & summer scenes are true pictures. That the man may laugh or frown tomorrow or next week, and thus for a moment alter his appearance, does not make his Daguerotype likeness of today an untrue picture. But let me quote Authorities for you — "The misery of man appears like childish petulance, when we explore the steady & prodigal provision that has been made for his support & delight on this green ball which floats him through the heavens. What Angels invented these splendid ornaments, these rich conveniences, this ocean of air above, this ocean of water beneath, this firmament of earth, between? this zodiac of lights, this tent of dropping clouds, this striped coat of Climates, this fourfold year? Beasts, fire, water, stones, & corn to serve him. The field at once his floor, his workyard, his playground, his garden, & his bed."

So says a book I am this eve reading: The same author directs — "If a man would be alone, let him look at the stars." Think of that. In another place he — "If the stars should appear only one night in a thousand years &c." What a sight. "How would men believe and adore! and preserve for generations the remembrance of the City of God which had been shown!" The same writer, being somewhat inclined to Transcendentalism, affirms "Most people do not see the Sun." To be sure he afterwards qualifies the expression.

You enquire if I am informed in European Politics. Well — some — after my fashion. My information has been derived heretofore principally, while in College, from the Reviews; the British Quarterlies, you know &c. My knowledge of ~~Am~~ ~~erican~~ "politics", has for a few years also been founded principally upon the American Reviews, the "North American" the "Whig" and "Democratic" Reviews. These Reviews I regard as extremely valuable, not only as being the best Mirrors of politics; reflecting it in perhaps its best State, viz. in what may be called its "transition" state, between the state of mere news, in which of course it has little value, & the State of history; but also as being the most true & sensible exponents of the views & sentiments of the parties whose organs they are. It is certainly the case in regard to the great European Reviews; and, I believe also, in great measure, with the "Whig" & "Democratic". Of course there can little reliance be placed upon the mere partisan Newspapers of either party. They are worth reading merely for the news of the day or week; not as exponents of real sentiment. These Reviews seem to me about as much necessaries of literary life, as bread & meat of the physical. The very idea of being so poor as to be compelled to do without them would seem to debar me from a professional life. Since I came here, in default of Reviews & everything else, I take H. Greeley's "New York Tribune", perhaps the best substitute, as far as foreign politics are concerned. It also suffices to keep me comfortably informed of Congressional proceedings & domestic Affairs.

Your definition of History is a good one, as far as "politics" is every thing, for that in the past tense is history. "An Aristocrat is but a democrat ripe & gone to seed" is extremely true. Extremes are frequently close together, but their true opposite is the mean, not each other. I have been ardently democratic & aristocratic, a great change or revulsion of feeling has come over me; I dont know but I am getting prematurely old, but I am becoming much conservative, republican, constitutionalist.

Present appearances are extremely unfavorable to Metternich, and to Austrian policy and self continuance. How wonderfully the Italian States are coming up! Tuscany, Florence, the Sicilies too so far as peaceable, are showing the right kind of revolution.

There is truth in your "thought" upon female friendship. The love of one does naturally tend to elevate one's opinion of the whole. I am not sure but Anne is right in thinking it the thing you need.

You have some ideas somewhat different from mine. You say you cannot read as I advise books recommended to you. You are "ignorant of important facts"; ignorant of facts? Who is not? The mind of Newton, with the memory of and all Mnemotechny to boot, after memorizing fact for millions of years, would still remain ignorant of most. But, the truth is knowledge of fact is not really the most important knowledge; to be sure a certain limited number of facts is somewhat necessary in all professions & occupations; perhaps more are required for an Engineer or a financier, than for any other man. Beyond this limit a fool may know more facts than a philosopher. "An idiot may rote volumes". A mere memory of facts is almost worthless. "Yet," the utilitarian may say "it is very convenient" Yes — so is an Encyclopedia, but but it is rather a poor use to put a man to to make him one; or either a table of Logarithms. Why perhaps you know half a dozen times as many facts now as I do; but it does not prove you are the best Educated. The books mentioned would teach how to use facts.

Janus. you, as a "matter of fact man" ought to know. I have an impression I thought it a li[illegible] strange, but supposing it used by you a "matter of fact" man, of course should not have dared to dispute it, any way. There was a certainly a connection between War and the opening & shutting of the Temple of Janus, perhaps that would [be] enough to justify a poet's use. I rather think if I had plenty of Big books around me to consult, "Authorities," I could find the facts and establish it.

For your account of your journeyings I was very much obliged. Such a trip must be on many accounts extremely pleasant. I think you must have enjoyed it a good deal. Was it principally for business or for pleasure? You mentioned nothing that your objects were, or what you were about in the different places you visited. How much would your expenses average per diem during such a trip. $3. to 5. probably travelling expenses & all. I believe my expenses were about $30.00 last winter in a six days trip to New Haven. Providence I have never seen. The Arcade which you mentioned I have read & seen Engravings of. A more particular description of places & objects, and recital of incidents would have been extremely interesting. As for the Blues or Hypochondria — I enjoy perfect health. To be sure I may not feel quite as well at some times as at others. but then my complexion never depends in any great degree upon that of the atmosphere or that of my dinner. Perfect independence of "accidents" of all externals, is my ideal; rather perhaps of all disagreeables, with keenest practicable susceptibility to all agreeables & beauties of Nature & art, mind, matter and heart. Of course, with the great prerequisite health, I enjoy myself constantly.

"Theodore Parker's Sermon on J. Q. Adams I have read twice. What do you think of it?

Newburyport I was never in. In Salem I spent about half an hour some dozen years since, and have since been under it once or twice.

Ambition. I believe I am not very Ambitious as men count ambition. P'haps not enough so for my own interests. To be sure no one can help having some certain aspirations; — and now I think of it perhaps it is only sluggishness of soul, that one has formed or even established the habit of not being moved thereby. However, I believe all Philosophers approve the wisdom of discarding Ambition. In fact though I do regard it as every one's duty to rise, to rise as much as fast, & so far as possible: that it without sacrificing any thing else more valuable for it. Not a mere rise in wealth; that of itself is worth little or nothing. to elevate ones position in Society, if it be the right kind of Society, is worth more. To increase in wisdom, true wisdom, and in happiness, that is the great thing. To increase one's self, not his property or his standing, or any of those mere accidents; to increase the man himself.

Most ambitious men, most men, perhaps all men, fail, err more or less in buying things too dear, terrible mean dirty paltry things too they pay awful prices for. Scripture speaks of the folly of selling the soul for the Whole world, yet how many lose it for really less than nothing? how many for a few paltry grains of glittering dust, which in the end only burns their fingers and corrodes their hearts? What object of Ambition is worth purchasing at the expense or even the risk of Peace of Conscience? Or even at the expense of social enjoyments and the happiness God has designed and ordered that we should enjoy even in this world?

If you say "the road is open, the means at hand, they may be discerned" I wish if you see & understand them you would state & explain. Likely enough, after all my preaching & practice too, I have only been in the condition of the fox under the Grape vines: and should like to climb up "a peice", to whistle "pop a little" if it did not cost too much. I finally agree with you pretty well that we are rather a smart set of fellows. (dont you sometimes think though, there better material and might get a cog or two higher, Providence assisting, if we tried hard enough. Only see that the whistle does not cost too much; or not to pay the piper too much for others to dance.

You mention where you go to hear preaching in Boston. Do you never find your way far enough up North to hear Dr. Beecher? Or up on State house hill to hear the Celebrated and Eloquent Kirk? Or into Marlboro Chapel to hear Matthew Hale Smith? 31 Brattle Street — and you like the place — I like Marlboro very well, every thing in shape. Our Temperance folks from this region usually stop at Quincy House, which would therefore be advantageous for me, if I should remain here about. However, if one is spending days in the City, 75 or 1.00 per diem is well worth saving. Russian language I never heard. German I am somewhat acquainted with & like much. Russian is much more harsh.

I do certainly & really think of going to Milo in May; tell them here I am going whether or no. To be sure it is rather a difficult business for one to leave a Road during Construction for a week or fortnight: but if they let me go I shall run no risk of losing my place. I believe I got a pretty firm hold here, considering especially the comparatively short term of my service.

Marriage — "the most important of Worldly subjects" — I believe I am not disposed to trifle with the subject. Of course I think of the matter — if I think of any thing. I think I am unfortunately not exactly just in proper condition to get married at present; certainly not so well situated for it as my brothers. And moreover do not as yet know any person in all respects just what I should wish, in a person for me to marry. (By the way there is a Young lady of this town, of whom, from all I hear, I have formed just about the right opinion, but unfortunately I never had the honor of an introduction, and the lady in question has gone South to teach School! In fact, I have not been able to arrive really at any conclusion. You have it several. I pray you communicate them to me. they might be extremely beneficial and serviceable to me.

Since writing the previous pages, and since the arrival of the Caledonia with further particulars, my opinion of the present French Revolution has somewhat improved. It appears to have been characterized by extraordinary & unexpected moderation, and those who appear to have taken the lead in it are men of such character as apparently to secure success so long as the power may remain in their, or such, hands. The "Arago's" you know and some of the others are of world wide renown as scientific men. Lamartine is also among the greatest as Historian, Orator, Poet. Most of them are better than that little measly Thiers

Northfield; May 28th 1848

"Dear Brother"

I hardly know whether I owe you a letter or not. At any rate there are undoubtedly many matters in your late letters abundantly worthy of serious consideration and careful answer.

In one of your letters you advise me to study thoroughly "A National [illegible]" "French finance", "British Budget", "Treasury Note & Subtreasury scheme"; "Sources of Revenue, Estimates, appropriations, & disbursements" &c.

Why? Cui bono? For what earthly object would you induce me to devote even a portion of my valuable time to such a ridiculous pursuit. Why, if I had a month or a year of perfect leisure I should sooner have thought of devoting it to the study of any single tree, plant, animal, bird, bug, reptile, the meanest creature of G-d. than to such. I do not want to be a Statesman, especially a financier. However you say Dr. Lamartine & I disagree upon the progress of political mind growth. Let us see. Lamartine says "Arbitrary, Aristocratic, Constitutional, Republican." Well, in the sense in which he uses it, for the progress of Nations, age to age, from Century to century, under the influence of enlightened civilization, education &c. History no doubt sustains him. I fully agree that such is in great measure the usual, perhaps natural line of progress. Still I am by no means disposed to give up my statement of the natural progress of mind. You may say mine progression begins where his ends: or state it as I did originally, Radical, Youth: ~~Conservative~~ Democratic, Manhood; Experience & age, Conservative

For my part, I judge that the most conservative minds of this Country might in Europe be the strongest Republicans: while perhaps the most ultra radicals of Europe would soon grow Conservative here. perhaps would be Monarchists. We do not always know how near extremes are until we see them meet.

Which should you call the most "Eloquent" man, Henry B. Sargent of Milo, or Rufus Choate? Isaiah Rider of Brownville, or Saml. H. Blake of Bangor? [these antecedents should be exchanged] The question of the "origin of Government", or as you say, the "right to Govern" is one of the greatest which the human mind can grasp at. It is too mighty for me. I dare not meddle with it. I cannot on the threshold get over the stumbling block of the Non resistant, No Government, communist. I can see no "right" to govern but the right of God. If he has delegated this Authority, (of which however I am not decided), to whom? to Oliver Cromwell, to the king, konig, Canning, able man. The divine right of kings is a far easier step than the right of the people to govern themselves. If "people" have the right they certainly have not the disposition or the Ability. As you say the human mind shrinks from responsibility, cannot, will not, depend upon itself. The Canning, able man, Oliver, Andrew, must "take the responsibility;" must govern. What right is his? divine? Who made him Canning? his fellows, the voters? No, they may make George & Lewis, Martin & James, & John Tyler too, but they do not make the true king, do not make Pitt, Wooley or Cromwell.

Matrimony

I think it a good plan for a young man to get married; and where circumstances are in any degree favorable, to get married early; earlier than the age to which both you and I have now arrived. If my circumstances had been favorable, had been as favorable as yours have been, I think I should at least have tried before this time. At about twenty or twenty one years of age, or as soon thereafter as may be; a young man's place, situation business, proposed line of life, should be settled, definitely decided upon; Immediately after he should endeavor to select a partner to walk with him through the journey of life, to divide the cares & double the joys of the weary pilgrimage

June 4th

I hardly know how to commence where I left off so suddenly. I guess you will have to continue the Subject.

We had quite a fire here last night, this morning. Parsons & Stevens Tannery &c. loss some $1200, or 1500. They are pretty well able to bear it though; business very prosperous; boot & Shoe, as well as leather. Some two or three thousand dollars worth of leather safe in the Vats underneath, under the liquor, uninjured. I worked there some among fire & in water. three or four hours till daylight. Not a dry thread on me when I got through. it of course did me good. Cousin Joseph got his face burned somewhat.

Mother is here now, came out Friday, at Parsons & Stevens, with Uncle Joseph, on Commissioners' R.R. business.

She is going over to Mrs Dickinson's tomorrow.

She appears to be enjoying herself much.

What do you think of Lewis Cass for President U.S.? I wonder if "the party" in Maine go it clear, bones & all? Maine is a queer place: I do not know as it is ~~exactly~~ entirely beyond the "pale of Civilization"; but it is certainly in many things, politics for one, a little "outré", a little "behind the times".

Both parties — Why — our Mass. folks would hardly allow that you had any Whigs there. Gov. Kent certainly not. And our Democrats cannot go Cass. they say the name is spelt wrong: C should be left off! We have some New York Democrats here — Barnburners. It would do you good to see their rage. Many of them would prefer to go for John Pitt Hale. Some for any body to defeat Cass. My friend Starr says any body but Cass or Sen. Foote! Wilmot Proviso men you know have especial hatred to Cass as the meanest of renegades

Well Joseph you said something in your last letter about my doing most of the correspondence, as your business pressed this Summer. If you are any more pressed than I am nowadays, you are altogether too much, that's all. You know or remember what I told you about so exclusive devotion to business such entire & exhausting giving up one's self to care; it is wrong. You ought not to do it, you must not, can not do it

I am anxious to hear how you are getting along; how you succeed in weathering the pecuniary difficulties so thick among you all when I was there. Has Charles been able to do any thing for you.

Probably Money is easier, & perhaps business better by this time.

How is Elias's health likely to hold out this summer, as well as your own?

Have you changed your boarding place? or how do you like better?

June 7th. I got up so late Yesterday Morning that I did not send these letters, as I intened. To make up for this negligence I am up betimes this morning; & have an hour or two before any one else is stirring. At first I intended to let Mother write also & send together with this, but I guess it is hardly best to wait. She has gone over the River to Mrs. Dickinson's, just as I got through with a weeks work on that side of the river. Now my work is all in another direction, and I cannot see her very conveniently. I am goining to enclose a parcel of letters addressed to you Bangor folks in one Wrapper: Whoever receives it first, must distribute to the rest. What is Lucy's direction; Bangor or Hampden?

I saw several about here haying Yesterday; Cutting the first Crop, a pretty good one too, on the "Home lots", about their Orchards, fruiteries &c. I wonder if Charles has got the Cattle fairly shut out of the interval yet.

(Vide page 2)

You asked me once how I was going to find my "Able Man", in whom is the "divine right" to Govern. Most fortunately, that is not my business! or yours. If he cannot find himself {as Oliver did}, I would give little for his Claim. By the way; of this same, a peice in my Tribune. Liberty putting up at Auction in Europe Crowns, coronets, Sceptres, & thrones. "property of Gentlemen going into other business, no further use for them" you know. Sale rather dull, No demand; fools caps at School; potatoe dishes &c.

Finally. "put up for a bid the famous Right Divine, Transmitted, for unnumbered years, through every regal line; Who bids? Who bids? You in the blouse? I thank you, sir, a Sous; 'Tis going, going, going, gone! The right, sir, is with you. Think of that?

What think you of French National Assembly? Will they finally succeed in elaborating any thing worth while? or only make confusion worse confounded? Have they any wiser & better men than the Girondists? or are there more of them?

You doubt the Excellence of Greely & his Tribune. No question, no American paper can be so well relied on for foreign news; full, complete, exact, correct; always depended upon. As for Greely himself, if you can find a better Editor in America, you must go farther than I have ever gon, by considerable: Only one thing I do not like: the man will go for Henry Clay for President.

You hardly did my justice on "Patriarchy & primogeniture" that you talked of. If I had an hour or two on that head, I'd use you for it.

Mother has concluded to send her letter to Milo, as I have written to your folks. I saw her last Eve June 7th, Well only she has a bad Cold, like every one else in Northfield who waked up at the fire other night, except a few of us who got well soaked in water, the sovereign preventative remedy of Colds.

Yours Off P. S.

June 7, 1848

Hurrah for Cass! Hurrah for Taylor!!!

Take my hat! There's my old Shoes!! Saw my leg off!!!

What are those benighted Down Easters doing nowadays?

Is George Edward Kent, Ex. Gov. etc. a true exponent of the Whigs, (I mean those who dare to call themselves so,) in the State of Maine? in Bangor?

Never man said truer word than Judge Allen in Nat. Conv. as exact as far as N.E. & Ohio ~~are~~ will concerned. "The Whig Party of the Union is this day dissolved." Why I do not know how far you would not have to go, any where here in Mass, out of the cities, to find the first, single man, (Harrison Whig, Clay Whig, Webster Whig, what not,) who would this day acknowledge himself as belonging to any political party.

You Down Easters I suspect know just nothing of the state of feeling here in Mass. The so called "Whig Papers", the organs of the Cottonocracy of Boston &c. the Atlas Advertiser, Journal &c. come just as near representing the Whig Party of Mass. as the Wash. Union does to representing the great Democratic Party of N.Y. or the John P. Hale party of N.H. They do not represent it at all. There are a few, comparatively a very few, rich men, in Boston, Lowell, Salem &c. interested solely in Manufactures; Cottonocracy, Cotton Whigs, they call them, men whose hearts were coined into dollars, long ere they can remember; who never had any knees but india rubber, who are perfectly willing to ~~bow~~ down, no, to lie down to get down any way fifty times lower than the lowest dirt there is between here & Japan, to the Slave Power, the South. The wealth indeed of Mass, as of the whole ~~U.S.~~ part of the world ~~is~~ in the hands of these men, or those like them. Their money buys & supports these so called Whig Papers. But to call them and all their influence & all it carries with it, the Whig Party, the Whig Party of Mass! why what a voice would come round from all these rugged mountain valleys & Granite hill sides, from the sterling yeomanry of the Old Bay State. There are too many such men as Old Senator White of Northfield, Hake & J. Stevens of Warwick, in fact there are too many Mass. men for all that.

... acknowledged on all sides, the first Editor of Boston (Courier) and, because he wouldn't bow, of course ...

Dear Brother July 2d, Your kind letter of 10th 25th Ultimo duly received on 29th.
Am very much obliged for information in relation to Bangor & Waterville R.R. Should like much to get hold of said report. If you can send it to me I will thank & pay all expenses. Is the stock of that Road taken up? How do Bangor men feel about it. Who are leading Capitalists, & the Engineers.
Are you aware that awarding the palm of Eloquence to Rufus Choate in preference to H. B. Sargent, is probably blankly denying all your fine spun theories of Eloquence in one of your late letters. You did not hesitate quite enough.

I never said I never read Jeremy Bentham, I guess. I never did much though. I have looked over some. What you call my "prejudices" may however be derived from better sources, than either his work or the injuriously worthless writings of some of his disciples in this country which I have read. While I think of it. Did you ever read the life of that same Jeremy Bentham? Better. He was undoubtedly a man of powerful mind. probably too of great heart though awfully warped. as a powerful mind he has undoubtedly had great influence, but in my opinion very far from beneficial influence.
The man's character was fundamentally wrong. his foundation & starting point wrong. Systems however ingenious, however powerfully supported, must fail in the end as Bentham's have done, if founded upon & built with principle directly opposed to the foundation principles of Christianity. The principles of Christianity must be foundation even of the politics of this World. History proves it. France & Ireland England itself proves that henceforth it must be.
Men did not go to Jeremy Bentham; thank God, to find the Constitution of the U.S. or the principles of our Government.

Matrimony, generally agree with & like your ideas & statements Have not now time or opportunity to write on that head. Will try to (Continue it) Remaineth in Man, all that inherent self control & responsibility with which he came from the hand of his Creator? Previous Question. Can he now Govern himself? aright?

as for pecuniary matters; I got back here a good deal behindhand. May was but half a month for my wages. My Expenses & spending have been considerably large for the past month &c. &c. &c. Or perhaps I could have sent you $30.00 or last this month's wages when I get it. As it is I am already spent ten dollars of it & must have some in my pocket. When it (pay day) will come round I know not. However, I guess Mr Field will lend me mine, and I will send you $30.00 in this letter, if I can get it.
Please send some memorandum of present state of our affairs.

What grounds have you for affirming that Republican France of 1848, has "Wiser & better" men than the Old Girondists? Are you acquainted with those same Girondists? Have you ever read Lamartine's History of the Girondists?

Your opinion of Horace Greely is probably too low. Is there an Editor in the U.S. his superior, or Equal? Is there there any one who possesses, any where near the influence of Greely? And is not not his influence pretty generally exerted on the right side? alway in favor of Law, Order, Morality, Philanthropy? Is not his heart bigger than Asa Walker's, Austin Willey's, Asa Cummings, (I write this with reverence & fear) & nobody cares who else all put together. He may have great faults but such men, such Editors as Greely are scarce: especially since Wm Leggett died. The best & most independent of N.E. political Editors, Buckingham, has just been killed of by Cotton. with several worthy followers, Robinson of Lowell, Wait of Greenfield, — of Northampton and several other honest men. But they say that in the towns about here, almost every paper, was stopped, by indignant subscribers, as soon as the change of Editors was known.

By the way I was about as much amused as provoked at comparing the statements of some of the Boston Papers, Journal

Advertiser, Kittell's Courier, &c. in regard to the Great Worcester Convention last week, with the statements of Eye Witnesses & of other papers.
"Ten or twelve hundred". "mostly ultra Liberty Men", "No enthusiasm".
"Twelve to fifteen thousand at least, the united worth & strength of all this part of the country. Most perfect enthusiasm. Among others from hereabout, Uncle Joseph was there, was one of the Vice Presidents. He stood on the platform by the side of Giddings when he spoke. Says the tears run down his great rugged face like rain, at his reception. Uncle Jos. was perfectly carried away by Giddings. By the way these Mass men talk considerably of voting for Martin Van Buren this fall. What think of it? Uncle Jos. thinks Giddings rather favors that plan. I should not be much surprised any week to see his name hoisted by Horace Greely even! That would have tremendous influence: there is a tremendous Taylor influence at work upon Greely though.

3 Eve I just had the pleasure of receiving an excellent letter from dear Sister Lucy, also from Samuel. Does me good

Tomorrow Morning is 4th of July! Hoorah.

Just heard A. C. Parsons, Cousin Hannah you know, little Babe is dead two or three months old. When I first heard the name they gave it I thought it was enough to kill it. "Appoline Virginia".

Very many people are sick here just about this time.

Mr Field lends me thirty dollars which will be enclosed in this.

What shall I do tomorrow? besides inspecting 1200 or estimate sleepers, and writings Estimates the rest of the time.

I wanted to write to Lucy with this; but I believe I must put it off, a day or two, I cant stop now.

Mother is out to Warwick, Aunt Conants' Williams &c. enjoys herself muchly. I do not know about her going back Down East in August. I want to talk to you about being careful of your health. You may be ambitious, or any thing else. Health is the very foundation of success in every thing

Aff. J. S.

Isaac.
Eloquence. Getting married. Politics. Heraldry. succeeds in Botany.

Northfield, July 23d. 1848

Dear Brother:

Excuse this dirty, bescrawled sheet of paper. I am short for this light paper

Your excellent letter was joyfully received a few days since. If the post mark was correct however, it had been out of the way somewhere, a week on the route.

Following your plan of affording suitable precedence to the jib, that time may be found to shipshape the main sheets, I have begun this today.

To recur once more to the subject of Eloquence: I can hardly allow that you have fairly got round my question as to Sargent & Choate. At least you have not given sufficient Authority consistent with your previous theories, or statements for preferring Choate in Eloquence

Choate is undoubtedly one of the possibly the, most Eloquent men in the Country "as most men count Eloquence": But if you have heard Choate; I appeal to you; if his greatness is not in what you characterised as "spurious mock Eloquence" "Instead of strict truth; assumes an air of confidence, unblushingly asserts his proposi "tions as admitted truths; or treats them as such; facile, agile, rapid in sophistry, "rather than rapid in sound reasoning. Impetuosity, and a sort of bold & confident audacity "in asserting things unproved & uncertain as truth; and deducting principles and infer "ences in all sorts of ways, & from all sorts of premises, are characteristics of his tactics"

Why you made out a fine description of Choate's speaking; in fact of all pop ular & successful Eloquence is usually precisely of this sort. In fact; if all these - if what you perhaps call "Oratory" is not Eloquence; and as I judge you mean, Truth, Candor, & Zeal, are its true essentials; I cannot yet see that you have not set yourself the other side up, in prefer avoiding the palm of Eloquence, to Choate, in preference to H. B. Sargent or Sarah Rider;

However: Some of your ideas would find themselves approved by the great standard work ~~I know~~ of on this head; viz, "Cicero de Oratore", (Of the Orator). Which if your attention is bestowed upon this subject, you ought to read. I do not know as Cicero has a good translation. You might

You have undoubtedly read Daniel Webster on true Eloquence, if you have not the Roman Father of Oratory. Principles of U.S. Constitution &c. where found. Our Puritan Forefathers; the Pilgrims of New England; Oliver & the Round Heads of the English Revolution, found them — found them in the Bible. They were not revealed by Bentham, or Voltaire: nor by Lycurgus or Cato even; but by Christ Jesus. To the Bible Mankind owe Liberty, as well as "Life".

You give me too much "credit" on "Matrimony"!

There was no noncommittalism about it. Simply this - it is a subject to which I have not turned my attention. I write nothing because I thought nothing. Perhaps I better think thereon immediately; — and come to these conclusion - - I believe a young man should - I want to — get Married as soon as possible — It is exactly what I need — I lack ambition - Need Motive, Spur to Exertion; — this living for ones' self alone — I too am unfortunately so constituted as to consider myself as a person of little consequence; hardly worth doing much for, except to keep comfortable. If I only had now some body else, "bright particular Star", to care for, to put forth all energies for, perhaps now I could do considerable. It is unfortunate; with a heart not lacking in Sympathy; somewhat susceptible, to the influence of other mind: frequently some what influenced by certain friends: I never yet happened to meet that mind exactly the right one to absorb & carry away my own. If I had I might have been a different, a superior man. I can realise it to be so.

To be sure, I never thought much on the subject; too careless on that as on others. If I do think — What shall I do? How Effect any thing? What can a young man do? Really I begin to fear, now I think of it, that I am one of those unfortunate beings predestined by unpropitious circumstance to be an — Old Bach.

You used to argue Early Marriages. You seem to be quitting the ground as untenable. Now I think of it — I begin to be strongly to that Opinion. I agree with Franklin, & Old Zack!

your Account Current highly satisfactory. In fact it places my financial affairs in a better light than I thought for.
That money of mine you have, or part of it, I shall want to go to Brunswick; Jos. McKeen Esq. Treas. Bowd. Coll. Cor. about the first of September.
Did not you return me more than 10.00 though when I left Bangor? I did not get back here for that did I? Our expenses must have been more.
My pocket has been rather bad since I sent you that $30.00. That was an advance on my June wages, then due in a few days. Well in consequence of the twisting up of R.R. financial concerns, that pay roll has not got round yet; and by present appearances, will not till the middle of Aug.! However I happen to have pretty good neighbors; & live by borrowing quite comfortably!
Politics — Go ahead. give it to Taylor & Cass men, best you know. I belong to the great "Free Soil Party. Hurrah for Martin Van Buren! How those Barn burners go into it! One of 'em says "the only thing which renders the result in this state at all questionable, is the mischievous attempt of a few dissatisfied democrats to run a third ticket, with Gen Cass for the Candidate" !!! Good!
What do you think of John A. Dix?
Lets hear your project for British debt. Open a correspondence with Sir Robert Peel, or some of them. What "Demonstration"?
You speak of Geneology, Heraldry &c. It is something I am ~~much~~ considerably interested; have wanted much to know more of. What information have you and where did you get it? Do share it with me. ~~Do~~ you understand Heraldry? would understand a Coat of Arms, if you found it. I believe I have somewhere met a Mayo coat of arms before I was interested in the subject though: would give ten dollars to get hold of the Metcalfs. Thought of writing to England. Most ashamed to though till I have consulted some old corners of Harvard Coll. Library

Where do you board and who is your Chum? What has occasioned the Postage Reform 'twixt here & Bangor? Postage now but ½ dime.

Prov. McLellan's Poems I have not seen. Have not much opportunity of seeing new books as I used to have. Once in a while, I get up to Brattleboro. sometimes squeeze out five minutes or half an hour to go in a Bookstore. Think I have seen a notice of the book you mention.

Where I feel the need of society most, is the lack of somebody to read Prov. Phil. to! You do not know, Joseph, how it hurts me, that you do not appreciate that book any more fully than you seem to. I am most afraid I worship it, How I do love it!

Did I tell you that I had Gray's Botany of the Northern States. It contains, probably 12 or 15 hundred different Genera. undoubtedly about every plant found in the U.S. north of Virginia & Kentucky Its specific descriptions are not quite so full as those of Bigelow. But then it far surpasses it in Scientific exactness of Tribes, families & Genera. which is much more valuable. It follows the Natural System, the only thing which is really worth anything, except easy lessons for beginners. There are great abundance of plants here not found in Maine. the Broad Leaved ~~Laurel~~ Kalmia, I believe the most splendid shrub I ever saw, is extremely abundant in June & July. Azalea nudiflora another large shrub. its very splendid, large flowers. Orchis of all kinds very rare. Jersey Tea, (Ceanothus) & Bladder Tree (Staphylea) No Lobelia pallida ever seen in Maine. flowers like inflata, but plant straight without branches, flowers crowded. It is common — like Buttercups — here. Two species of Apocynum, A Geranium, Two small species of Wild Clover Downy, and Yellow, Lupine, Vetches, Bush Clover, Hedysarum &c &c. A very beautiful species of Asclepias, not milky, orange colored, root much valued as medicine &c. &c. &c. Plants vary much here from Maine.

I believe I have not told you of the death of Cousin Joseph's little boy July 16th. Most two years old. I believe I loved him better myself than any other child I ever saw of the age.

Dysentery prevalent here, many deaths, children mostly.

# Copy of Correspondence with Jos. Mc.Keen Esq.

" Mr. McKeen Dr Sir    Northfield Mass. Aug. 9th 1848

Your letter & statement of my account is duly received. I notice that the extra Charge in my first Term Bill, $26.25 for which I petitioned an abatement is continued. This Charge, acknowledged an unreasonable one, I had not expected to pay, and Pres. Woods gave me encouragement that it would be remitted. There are also some other things in the account which I do not understand; E.g. the balance of $.81 at the close of the year 1845. But though differing from my memoranda, I presume your books are correct. In the Bill for the Spring Term of '47 there is charged $3.18 for "Repairs". I was in College but about one Week that Term. It seems hardly fair when one is absent in addition to all the other Charges as usual, to be taxed for repairs because the room one had occupied was broken in, and his own books & other ~~property~~ removed or stolen. Another thing I mentioned to you last year. I had furnished my room with an Air Tight Stove at expense of $4.00. ~~Then I enquired~~ During my absence in Spring of '47 my Stove was removed with the others. When I enquired for it you told me it should be returned, or it should be paid for it.
The Term Bill of Dec. 18th 1846, and of Dec. 19th '45, as also the last one of 5 Sept '47 I have never seen. If you have them by you, & it is convenient, I will be much obliged to you if you will forward them to me by mail, as I should like to see them, especially the last. &c. "

This is the letter, which I judge from the extract you wrote of one to you, Mr McK considered ~~disrespectful~~ Offensive. The above is a copy of my first rough "probably under some excitement" draft of it. If the Epistle sent varied from that, it was in softening down the "Tone" of it; which I think was done in some degree the next day. If Offensive in any degree it must be by its simple Truth. The $.81 of 1845, I considered an extremely delicate allusion to Mr. McK's peculiar method of reckoning interest Triennially. It would be instantly understood by *him*. My impression is however that that passage was considerably 'refined' in the Copy Sent.

" Mr McKeen Dear Sir    Northfield Mass. Aug. 28th, 1848.

I am extremely sorry to be obliged to apologize for again delaying the settlement of my account with Bowd. Coll. I intended to remit the balance justly due before the first of Sept. By the suddenly unexpected embarrassment of the Mercantile Firm in Bangor with whom the funds I had devoted to that purpose were deposited, I find myself without the means. To borrow the money here in the present condition of financial Matters among Rail Road Men, would be very unpleasant if not impossible, and I am reluctant constrained to request you to wait some ~~two months~~

until I can make up the sum from my wages. I hope no offence was taken at the tone or Contents of my letter of Aug. 9th, to which I have as yet received no reply. I hope & expect that all honest claims against me, will be honorably discharged, and without involving others: but demands so plainly unreasonable, and which I supposed withdrawn, are certainly vexations to a young man in my situation; and I felt that a remonstrance ought to be heard and answered

With Consideration & respect.
I. S. Metcalf

To neither of these letters, have I ever received any reply. except that through you of Nov. 11th. Jos. McKeen Esq. failed in his duty, to me at least, outrageously, that he did not lay these letters, the first especially, before the "Govt." Was the man afraid to?
It might not do him any good for me to write to the Prest. and he be obliged to produce my letters, as he would be. Had I better write to Rev. Leonard Woods D.D. Presdt. &c. &c.? I was not intending to have any more special communication with the gentleman, until I became approximately as Aristocratic as himself. With the good blessing of Heaven it will not take very many years ~~for me~~ to get my head as far out of the mud as some of his particular friends among my classmates will be out of the gutter — "perhaps."

Excuse the first half of the other sheet: it was written while I was still suffering under those horrid Janders. from which I have not yet fully recoverd health & Strength. I transcribed copies of those letters to McKeen that you might see the real state of his case; though you could not understand it fully without far too extended explanation. I think I have kept myself straight through the business. Think I was in College free from that so general boyish prejudice & quarrel of Students against their Tutors & Officers. I did not require those artifices used so much in getting along with boys. endeavored to treat all Officers of College &c. as a gentleman and not as a school boy. To be sure when Old Prof. Cleaveland pounced upon me in one of his hypo fits; I did not tremble into the dust before his mighty presence. and then sneak off & make sport & difficulty if possible about it. but I rose & answered him boldly & promptly, with the respect due to his age & dignity. but considering him as only a Man and one who happened to in error; fairly bearded the Old Lion in his own den.

as no student while I was in College ever dared to think of doing; and the Old Gentleman, for he is a gentleman at heart, and a great man too, has thought all the better of me from that day to this, and treated me me better too than he did my cringing Classmates who bowed so meekly to the Old man's childish petulance, and awful frowns.

I may be in Bangor this Winter yet. Vermont & Mass. you know is nearly completed, was to be Jan. 1st. will be soon after. The Running part of the Road has been let the past year to The Fitchburg RR Company who have run it with their Engines, Cars, & Road furniture, it not being convenient for our Company to provide themselves or the Road with the full Quota until the road was finished. Jan. 1st the Whole Road comes back into the hands of the Vermont & Mass. R.R. Corporation. Their Engines, Cars of all kinds, Apparatus of all sorts, for 60 or 70 Mls. of Rail Road are constantly getting along. &c.

Well. Our present Mighty "Chief Engineer", S. F. Johnson Esq. avows his determination not to remain, though urgently requested, as Superintendent of the completed Running Rail Road. If he leaves, & some new dynasty takes his place, there is no knowing what changes may occur. Can't tell into whose hands the "Greenfield Branch R.R." may fall. My Mr. Field has had the promise of it from Presd. Crocker. If he has it, I am probably retained in full, until its completion if I chose. Mr. Field however regards his chance for it as about ——— If it passes into other hands, it is possible, that as already upon the Spot I might be retained for the present at least but altogether probable that among the Multitude of claimants older & favored by better influence I might be put aside.

What astonishing weather — Along in Nov. there was a fall of snow, foot or so, but it melted away in a few days, and has October & April ever since. Once in a while it will get a little chilly, just enough to begin to freeze nights, the cloud away, rain a little, and clear off warm & foggy like April or May.

I think though such Winter weather must be unhealthy. It has been though most astonishingly favorable for our R.R. work. Bridges, builings, of all sorts have gone ahead every day, just like Summer. While cold, snowy or icy weather would have delayed almost immeasurably.

Men would not have done much running out timbers on this bridge here 60 or 70 feet from the water, in cold icy or even snowy weather. I should not have admired it myself overmuch. Mail time

J. S. Metcalf

P.S. Write soon.

Isaac.
Dec 17 1848.
Correspondence with J. McKeen.

Isaac.
Diff from M & F. Right of governing. Marriage. Radical difference in the sexes. Metcalf arms. Heraldry. Is it a sin to have great wealth.

Dear Brother: Northfield Aug. 29th 1858

Your last letter was duly received, and as usual contained many things of worth & meriting reply. As for the money business upon which you wrote the case is bad. You see I owed Bowd. Coll. and did not pay; not having given bonds they had no alternative but to wait. I hated terribly to leave College without paying up. Honor requires that if I could not then I should as soon as possible. Not thinking of trouble, I wrote to Old Mc Keen, apologizing as handsomely as I could for running off with my bills unsettled, requesting statement of account, and promising to send it by 1st Prox. He has replied very kindly, and hoping it would be settled in time for his Annual Account, so he could report me for a degree &c. I do not like to put it off any longer. Still, you are in straightened circumstances, and it would probably trouble you much more to raise the money than it would all be worth. After all I guess it will not make much difference. I will write once more to Mr. Mc Keen, apologise the best I know; tell him perhaps, that I had invested the funds for that object where I supposed them at command, but that the present finalcial crisis has taken them out of my power, & I have no means left but to wait a month or two until I can again earn the money.

I suppose I should send him about a hundred dollars. Now I expected to receive more than that of Vt. & Mass. R.R. Co. before this time. to be sure I owe some sixty or more of it here; and to cap the catastrophe it seems the money does not come this month either. Rail Road Companies are awfully twisted up just now. Here is this Road, apparently very prosperously situated. Every thing in a train to finish its line before the Jan. at least; the benefits of expending a hundred thousand or so on a branch hardly to be calculated; prospects otherwise as bright as could be; and now in danger of total stoppation; dropping like an apopleptic fit, merely because they cannot raise money when they have funds enough for all they require, if they could only

As in principles of U.S. Constitution, of origin &c. of which you speak: I did not mean as you take. I meaned the deep foundations of that Constitution; the great principle of human liberty, equality, & responsibility, of responsibility of Self to God, not through any divine right of King, cheiftain or pope to usurp the place to be the conscience of the man. This was the deep principle that Huber & the Round Heads, and our puritan forefathers found in the Bible, and made the strong foundation of Our & the English Constitutions; with all their rights & manifestations. These, Representation, Habeas Corpus, &c. &c. &c. are but the manifestations, the workings out, the adaptations of that deep principle.

That is the thing; You have not in the Bible the manifestations, adaptations & develope-ments of all these things, any more than you have the Creeds of Metaphysics, theology and philosophy; any more than you have of the Steam engine & the Mag. Telegraph. But you have something which lies away back of all these; the deep foundation, the great starting point of all these; the quarry whence comes the stone cut out without hands which became a mountain & filled the whole earth.

Matrimony You enquire if there not be an extreme of precipitation. Well, I am inclined to think there may be. An Engineer on this Road has just married a Servant Girl of the Hotel where he boarded, 16 yrs old, ignorant, not very respectable.

Your next remarks are perhaps valuable, but unsusceptible of reply. For next head, of Kindred Spirits, I must refer to Prov. Phil. As for difference of the sexes: Whether there is really any natural difference at all, whether the difference of character, propensity and sentiment, is not to be attributed to difference of circumstances, Education and habit, is a point, a question in Natural History upon which I am not decided: in fact I have never attended to it. And should hardly know how to enter upon the research of such a subject. I should examine the Bible some upon it, though I do not know as any thing there could be brought to bear.

Buffalo Convention. "Hurra for Martin Van Buren, & Charles Francis Adams". Them's my sentiments, & that is my ticket. All I can do will be done for that ticket. It is expected that the Electors of Mass. & N.Y. will be elected for that ticket if no more. All N.E. ought to be.

A large majority of the political papers, & of the politicians of this part of the world are clearly Free Soil. "M. V. B. & C. F. A."
How is the feeling with you, and your abouts on this great question; the great question of the day, of the country.

Am much obliged to you for the information in your last on subject of Heraldry &c.. Am extremely anxious to hear more. Do share with me whatever you have found. Let me know what you have; where you got it; its degree of Authenticity &c. &c. You have the Metcalf Coat of Arms!!! Do! Do! How? Where? When? &c. &c. &c. &c. &c. &c.
I should prefer of course being under obligations to you than to anyone else. I will cooperate with you in what can be done in finding & tracing out facts & their connections, bearing on this Subject. Do you know any thing about the Metcalfs of Maine? They are quite a large and honorable body; principally of Kennebec County. I had a College Acquaintance; Graduated two years since, who, I suspect, has since married a Metcalf of Winthrop. I think of writing to him on that subject, though I do not know where he is now. I rather think he is just the right sort of mind to be interested in, & pry into such sort of things. Tell me what else to do. Did you mean Chelmsford in Old or New England.

Conquiesco. Con is a Latin preposition, means together, or that like in composition usually about the same if any thing
Quiesco is 1st Per. sing. pres. Ind. verb. 'I rest' sometimes sleep.
for particular & varied meaning:, I have here no books, see any Latin Lexicon.

I suppose I ought to administer unto you a rebuke in good set terms for that last paragraph of your letter "inclined to be discontented: wish it was not wrong to put one's self out of the world" !!! What do you mean? Seriously, brother, such feelings are very wicked. Inquire of your own heart about them. The harboring such feelings is ~~the~~ base ingratitude to God, and also is foolishly destroying one's own happiness.

[illegible] who will beat me at drawing? There you have the Escutcheon, not quite "[illegible]" to be sure. there is "Chevron, argent et Gules": and also "in sinister Chief, falcon rising proper". belled or I cannot exhibit on that scale Also on the dexter falcon, either the scutcheon is too small or my pen is too big, & I will give it up, Moreover I guess I will do the same by the ~~other~~ Crest, which would be much harder to delineate than Escutcheon. besides I hardly understand it. falcon rising is plain; or, dotted all over to express gold; wing asure, expressed by ≡. a ~~golden~~ or star on each wing? charged in the neck with a bar gemmels of the second. I do not fully understand What is it which is charged with a bar? "gemmels" I do not know. gemel is an heraldic term meaning double, or a pair I believe

You ask me to "blason" that coat of Arms: by which I suppose you mean explain it; perhaps that is just what I do not know. However in the first place, you have not half described it, I judge. You have not blasoned it much yourself. As for its meaning intended, if that you want: I will not undertake to say whether or not the original wearer did not live in a shed house! falcons perhaps mean courage & strength, or some of that ilk: or perhaps renown in hunting. The Crest was quite a mark of distinction sometime perhaps. The Colors of the family of which those are the arms are about as much as I should know from it.

You say I have advantages which you have not for study of Heraldry. The contrary is true. I have had. I am not where I have access to books, as much as you. Go into your Library, consult some of those big Old Encyclopedias, articles "Heraldry" &c. By the way those Old Encyclopedias are the most valuable things in Libraries. Do you ever know their value, for reference If there is any thing in the world you want to know about all you have to do is open some one of those Encyclopedias. For Heraldry &c. I guess Encyclopedia Brittannica is the thing; am not quite certain. How well is your library supplied with that sort?

Here is an idea I just have, from Prov Phil. "He who hath more than enough is a theif of the rights of his brother" Is that a fact? Is it a Sin for a man to have a hundred thousand dollars? I believe it is! What right or little has he to it when thousands of his fellows have not food, Clothing, & Education? I am not sure that those French Blouse men are not mainly in the right after all. Has any one man a right to own 50 thousand acres of land? Has God ever given man such right? Can Man give man such right?

2d Eve. Hoorah Eliab & Lucy. I hear are at Warwick! When shall I see them? I was out there one day last week, saw Aunt & Mother & Folks. Cousin Joseph has a Daughter. I guess I will not await their return but despatch this letter tonight.

Truly J. S.

Sep. 12 1848

Joseph. I do not know as it is just the thing for me to undertake to rebuke you, without at least first trying sundry beams in my own eyes. Still we ought you know to "bear one another's burdens". and I do not know but I ought to try to reprove you somewhat. Some things dropped in your last letter, I think; and what Lucy & Elihu said of your "downspiritedness", anxiety & trouble about business, and looking on the dark side of things. Such are feelings that we ought not to give way to. If disposed to them we should strive manfully — prayerfully — against them, as a duty. What was that in one of your letters? You "almost wished it were not wrong to commit Suicide"?! Can one have such feelings as that and be at the same time truly prepared for that trying event of Death. "Even to the best, the wise, and pure, and pious," Death is a solemn, an awful thing. Brother, Brother, is it well with thee? Is it well with thy soul?

Do not say now that it is easy for me, with my disposition, to preach on this subject. The disposition is only the habit in either of us. But the habit is a thing of mighty importance. The happiness of this world may depend upon it, and be connected we know not how closely with matters of higher importance still.

Do you read Proverbial Philosophy?

man is worth 10.000, perhaps 30000. or, never asked him. If men were the highest hope of Northfield, I do not know but I should think he ought to stay here. As it is, it can hardly be duty for him to stay in Purgatory for the sake of benefitting that which is past all hope. The Orthodox folks here might just as well slump through the best way they could, if Mr. Dutton should go off. There would not be enough of any thing left to make a respectable grease spot. This is speaking after the manner of men Mr Dutton, I believe they say, does more than half for the support of the Orthodox Church & Ministry here; and if it were not for him probably more than half of the other half would not be done. There, have I not given a pretty good account of the man. Now he says he would like to go into some good place; where there is good society, good schools for his children, religious & literary privileges; and engage in most any business. I think likely he would prefer to be a bookkeeper in a good place: rather than to go into business himself. Don't know;

What do you think about Sister Anne's prospects? And what had she better do? It seems Mr Harlow wants that land on which her School house is situated. Is there any good place to move it to, and would it be worth the while? Would it sell as it is? What can she do? I guess she thinks some of going off West. Had she better? I do not think much of this going off away from friends and all who can assist or who feel an interest in me. ... there must be many trials attending it. ... I am afraid you hardly do Anne justice. She has some ... defects it is true. but very many excellencies, and we all owe her ... much. Not debts of mere paltry dollars & cents, but what is more val... uable, and rarely obtained, love, care, & interest. I expect you ... are most too hard upon her sometimes. That you hurt ... her feelings unnecessarily and without doing any Good. Write -

"The Authority of ~~our~~ Government is derived. Neither is it derived simply from the people. If all the inhabitants of the land were to assemble enmasse at the Capital, we would no more concede to them absolute power than to their Representatives. In the best and most legitimate form, the power cannot come from the People. It can at most, only come through the people. It comes from Him, who is possessed "All power in heaven and on Earth". A greater than all Governments, people or princes. says "By me kings reign, and princes decree justice" "There is no power but of God."

Don't you wish you had ten thousand dollars to invest about this time. There is a grand opportunity hereabouts for a perfectly safe, & at the same time quite profitable investment. The Vermont & Mass. Rail Road Company, driven by extreme pressure of the money market, and the absolute necessity for money to finish their line as soon as may be, have been following the example of "Uncle Sam". Their "Bonds" are in the Market. Obligation to pay $100.00 July 1851. and three dollars every six months until then. The three dollar's bring each Clips at the bottom of the Bond, each good as a three dollar bill any where.

These Bonds sell for $ 90.00 (87.50) each Making for 90.00 three years $118.00 beside interest of the 3.00 interests. Is not that profitable investment

~~What per cent do you call that?~~ 11853? --- 123390447619 ---

What opening or inducement is there in Bangor for just the "right kind of a man"? The best man there is here in Northfield, my particular friend, Deacon Samuel W. Dutton, is sick of the place and wishes to go elsewhere, and I do not blame him, but wish he might get in a good place, knowing him to be a very valuable citizen, and extremely worthy in all respects. He is a man perhaps 35 years old, with an excellent wife, and two pretty children. intelligent, well informed, of the highest toned principle; has been a Country Merchant, farmer, and buyer of Cattle; has quite a pretty little property; Assessor's books, I think, say $5000.00 at interest; perhaps the man is worth 10.000, perhaps 30000.00; never asked him. If there were the slightest hope of Northfield, I do not know but I should think he ought to stay here. As it is, it can hardly be duty for him to stay in Purgatory for the sake of benefitting that which is past all hope. The Orthodox folks here might just as well slump through the best way they could, if Mr. Dutton should go off. There would not be enough of any thing left to make a respectable grease spot. This is speaking after the manner of men

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Isaac [illegible] 12 1[illegible]
Chance for Dea Dutton. I. [illegible] for Chemicals.
Metcalf Family &c

Your statement of my a/c with Metcalf & Farber, and the resultant note of Metcalf, Farber & Company, for $ 83.65 on demand, with interest, was, by the hand of E. W. Metcalf, duly received; and is highly satisfactory. What is your opinion about the state of accounts and money matters betwen Chas. W. Rich of Milo, and myself? You are full as well acquainted with the premises as I am, or he is: I expect it is a great question, legal, moral, financial, fraternal, complicate, &c. &c. Please forward your "Opinion & advice"; with statement of Fee.

I am much anxious to hear further from you upon that subject of Heraldry & Geneology. I wanted to try to get something more out of Lucy when she was here, but did not have the opportunity. What story did I hear Anne telling about somebody "going round with a big book"? I don't know what all. What relative of Michael Metcalf who settled in Dedham in 1637 or 8, was Eleazar Metcalf who went or returned to Wrentham in 1680 or thereabout. His name was first on the list of town's men. Do you know any thing about Judge Theron Metcalf? Is Senator Metcalf of Kentucky a Wrentham Metcalf? Judge Metcalf of Natchez Miss. I believe is. Is there any such thing as Town Records of these old towns of some 150 or 200 years ago? Do you know any thing of that great Type man Metcalf of Boston, come from Monmouth, Maine? Who is that Metcalf (Benj?) who used to live in Bangor, a few years since?

What is probably the value of "History of Dedham", from the beginning of its settlement in Sept. 1635, to May 1827, by Erastus Worthington? Also "Historical Address, with notes" of Sam. F. Haven esq. Sec. Cen. Ann. of Dedham, 1836

More than thirty funerals in the Town of Northfield since July 1st. about three times the usual Annual number! I never knew before that the Dysentery was so dreadful a disease; though it cut down a noble College friend of mine a year since. I never knew what a disease it was.

What do you think of the Asiatic Cholera? I see the London Physicians have begun to expect it here. Will it not be in this country by another season? Are not the Bowel Complaints, so prevalent this season, its natural premonitions?

Sep 18 1858

Dear Brother Joseph

I wrote you quite a letter the other day I guess in advance; though I do not know as there was really any thing worth awhile in it: And I do not know as I have any thing particular to write now; but then I want to write to some of them and you seem to be the general convenient medium, Moreover I guess possibly there may be some things in that other letter which you better answer sometime, & so if I write this after receiving yours there will be no excuse. I have just been writing a long string of twaddle to Lucy on another sheet, about my late important sickness; which if you are curious in such matters, you can learn the particulars of from her, or read it yourself.

The Exordium of your letter is much to be admired

As for your grating & grinding, regrating & regrinding your teeth it is by no means to be commended: it is a bad practice: it injures the enamel. Dont you do any such thing. Especially do not do it on my account. I never find any occasion to do it myself; and yet my teeth are rotting somewhat. What "troubles, vexations, miseries" did you refer to? any you have been called to experience? Let me condole with you: though in fact I have very little faith in such things as long as a Benignant Providence is pleased to spare us those near relatives in this world, whose loss would indeed be trouble & affliction, though perhaps even that ought not to be misery.

"Will there be Wealth in another World?" Yes indeed, vast amounts of the highest & purest Wealths of Earth, there become still higher & purer. The Wealth of Mind, the mighty treasures of Science, the untold riches of affection; and of a good conscience. How all these & such like will be there enlarged magnified, and made excellent. with that greatest of all treasures, pearl of untold price

the Lord God; But as far as any thing else is concerned, the mere "filthy lucre" on which foolish men set their minds in this world, what this world calls property, silver & gold, houses and lands, nothing is more certain than that "as we brought nothing into the world we can carry nothing out." The Bible is no more explicit on that point than are the teachings of mere human reason. This right of property so called on earth, the dirtiest of all the dirty passions of this dirty planet will undoubtedly be most strictly confined thereto.

Returning to a previous point of the Right of one man to $ 100,000.00, or to 50.000 acres of land. You advance no proof more than I did. Now I maintain it to be a very questionable Ethics that gives such a right. Some men to be sure may be worthy of such right; may be more worthy that is of the right to 50 000 acres than another man to one; as one man may be more capable & worthy of reigning over 100000 men than another is of governing himself. My principles of government might permit me to say he had the right. I suspect yours would not. You say "any" man.

What you say of the "right & security of private property" may mostly be true; though it is made a great bugbear of, too often; is is made the foundation of a great many theories both of morals & politics that certainly ought to have a better foundation, if they have any.

It is made the great corner stone of tyranny, and unfounded government; is the principal foundation thereof, since that old "Right Divine" principle has been so jostled about it cant be relied on.

Vidicaf [illegible] — Argent. three calves, in chief passant, Sa? What is that? abbrev. for sanguine, sable,? I do not know it. Crest &c & Motto.

Very good as far as it goes. perhaps, as you say, not full or correct, you say you have not seen the portrayal or description lately! Did you ever see it and not copy description & portrayal both;? That would

be the very first thing I should think. That is what I want the description in full and copy exact of portrayal. Nothing else satisfies me at all or gives me any adequate idea of it. To be sure if I had one I might make the other for myself at least from the portrayal I could easily describe, and with with a really accurate full description, I might reproduce the portrayal. About Chevron & Shed House I was of course only joking was well aware of the import of the term in Military Engineering, and that it was copied thence with many other terms into the techni chology of Heraldry, which was manufactured from the other then Sciences.

If I should receive Money, and should send you in a few weeks $ 50.00 or 60.00 or 70.00 as I could spare, could you forward to Jos. McKeen before Nov. 1st $ 83.00 which is the Amt. I intend he shall have at that time. (His bill would perhaps be $ 118.86 which I dispute)
Write to me what are the present state of your finances?

18th Eve. These letter were written yesterday & tother day. I have nothing further to write, except that I expect to have eaten every thing there is here in Mass within a few days & you need not be surprised to see supply teams in your direction before long.

I hope you will write soon.

What is your opinion of Anne's affairs

I am intending to write to her as soon as I can get time. Business is quite brisk here as I did nothing last week.

Track Laying is about progressing

Free Soil is the principal thing here abouts nowadays

J. J.

Isaac
Sep 18 1848
Will there be wealth in Heaven?
Has a man a right to be worth half a million?

5

North field Mass
Sept 19

Mr. Jos. W. Metcalf
Bangor
Maine

Joseph

Sending money to Isaac & McKeen

Northfield, Mass. Oct. 8th 1849.

This Letter, which is to be, is already dated. If I happen to think of it at the proper time, it shall also have a signature, equally correct.

Dear Brother,

Your letter of 21st–23d inst. was by me received through hands of Rufus Holton & Joseph Stevens, as I was busily employed in "setting grades" &c. and directing the "Laying Track" in the Vt. & Mass. R.R. some seven or eight miles from here; which occupation is mine at present, and I am therefore obliged, being on the track early & late to board away from home, & only come up here Saturday nights. I like the business very well, and it is a very good chance for me.

Cousin Joseph Stevens is one of my Assistants at present on the R.R. He and Parsons have dissolved partnership. You know they were burnt out last Spring; the loss fell most heavily on Joseph Parsons had much other property; but it was almost Joseph's all He thought he had not ~~money~~ capital enough to continue the business profitably; and now wants some other; may get some situation, Depot, Freight, or Baggage, or something Master in the Rail Road He is helping us for a few weeks now driving grade pegs.

You enquire ~~whence~~ for the origin of a quotation in my last letter on the Source of Government. I have been trying to remember what the quotation was, but cannot, much more where it came from. Since then have happened to meet with Wm. Goodell's Constitutionality of Am. Slavery. Did you ever see the Book? Am very much pleased with some things there, some that tally so exactly with certain ideas of my own which I have never before seen well expressed. "Common Law" &c. He does not show much mercy too to the celebrated "Social Compact".

I expect I do not fully understand your method for me to remit money to Mr. Kern, supposing you to have the funds ready to pay over to him, am I simply to write, and send to him a check, draft, or whatever you call it, similar to the Principle you sent;? Is that it? But the expense, Cost of Collecting, Discount, Bank Fees or what not, what about them? No expense should come out of him: Or should the Draft be of amount to cover all this whatever it be? Moreover what be it? I wish you would write ~~me~~ right off, and tell me all about it

Your retaining the $18.00 Eliab was sending for the watch was of course all right

His selling the watch was lucky

I wrote to Anne at Hartford near a week since. Received a letter from her a ~~day~~ Saturday yesterday, but written before she received mine.

Her going off so far seems rather bad: I guess she is in good spirits however; and has a good prospect of some very favorable situation, but did not yet know where she should go.

What is the reason Brother Charles is so unlucky?

My time is much crowded nowadays. it is now getting late. I cannot write more this time. will make it up some time.

I hope you will write immediately.

Aff. J.S.

Funds run low here yet. Have got no wages or bills since June! More than $150.00 behind.

I almost forgot the signature now

Bro &c. J.S. Metcalf

My Second direction is

J. F. W. Neely
Asst. Eng. Vt. & Mass. R.R.
Greenfield
No. 6

Isaac.

Northfield. Fr. Co. Mass. Oct. 22^d^, 1848

Dear Brother

Yours of the 16^th^ inst. received sometime lately. This letter of mine is not dated at "Mobile Ala." becase I aint thar. But I came as near starting for there this week, as the boy did to getting his pig. I did not go, and probably shall not for two or three months at least.

That quotation you refer to, was probably from some periodical I happened to have in my hand as I was writing the letter. I rather think from McClures' "Christan Observatory", a monthly usually lent me by my friend Dea. Dutton. It sounds much like Mc. Clures's own style. Some piece I read there some way connected with that subject I recommember.

Am much obliged for your information with regard to forwarding money &c. I have been quite anxious to settle up the business this month. We get no money yet though. I have been oblig^d^ to borrow considerable, thirty or forty dollars round. When it will come know not; strongly hope this week. It is certainly time – most four months behind. The Vt. & Mass. is terribly pressed, pretty fairly cornered. Wiggled terribly for a few months. First 90 per cent Bonds then New Stock at half price! Now finally probably a Loan and Mortgage of Road, it being successful.

You speak of laying sticks on the Atlantic & St. Lawrence RR. the trouble is I have no sticks in that direction; not even a peg to hang a hat or a hope on. You say it is the best place on that Road. Dont know about that. One thing – did

you never learn that a Road or any Corporation being praised, & talked of, & spoken well of in the Newspapers &c. was no sign of its prosperity or favorable prospects, but exactly the contrary! It is puffed because it needs it. These sort of things are done on purpose for effect, & because they are paid for. No unfinished Road in N.E. perhaps has been more or higher praised "in the papers" for months past than Vt. & Mass. Such Roads as Worcester Fitchburg, Lowel, Eastern, do not need any thing of the kind. But for the At. & St. Le. it is probably necessary that folks should have a good opinion of it. as well at Vt. & Mass. if possible.

This "Mobile & Ohio" Rail Road, offers about the best prospects to the young Engineer. It will eventually be perhaps the most important Rail Road in the world. half a dozen years job at least; under one of the best his friends & followers, say, the best of Engineers of U.S. Nearly 500 miles long, main trunk, Mobile to Cairo, & R. Roads connected with it innumerable. Under Old Capt Childe, John Childe, of Springfield. A large party just going on to commence on it. I went down to Springfield yesterday to see the Capting. He had sent up for Leonard one of my Vt & Mass. Coworkers, but one of Childe's Old men, I went down with him. He, however (appears to be a man of perfect system) had had his plans all laid, when he came on from South; nothing to do but write to those he had selected, & they coming, his parties were all full. — However — I was well recommended to him, he liked my appearance; filed away my name &c. and probably run a pretty considerable risk of being called upon sometime, to take some post under him, somewhere between the Gulf of Mexico & British America.

You speak of difficulty of keeping men "Free Soil" even when fully convinced. You need John Pitt Hale to talk to some of them. I never heard any body drive Politics right ~~straight~~ into a man's own individual conscience, and <u>nail it</u> down there, as John P. Hale will. Seems as if a Snake with an India Rubber Conscience could not get away from him; but it appears they will, atleast politicians.

of Students Mason & Webb were both acquaintances of mine. Baker, Wm. M. Baker, was my old Chum. A noble fellow. Do you know whether Crosby Wheeler is in the Seminary this year, I have seen no Catalogue.

By the way, now I think of it. Why did you send me a 'Report & Plan' of of Bangor & ~~Waterville~~ R.R. long time ago, and then send me the "<u>Plan</u>" again lately.

Have the Fost Parish any one in view for a Minister? Why do you not make your mind to ~~[illegible]~~end the Lyceum. <u>constantly</u>. I believe it would be well worth your while, would it not? You would enjoy it.

I should like to hear Giles on Don Quixote. Giles has great genius, but I do not like all his ideas. That remark, "not put in this world to enjoy" I do not believe. He may think his little deformed nervous self was not, though I should not allow even that.

One thing can not be allowed to you or Giles either that "Cervantes stands side by side with <u>Shakespeare</u>"

I am born an Englishman; Do not insult me in sort o' way. Besides it is not correct. No one disputes Cervantes' greatness: neither does any one but the Spaniard set him with Shakespeare. While even the German puts Shakespeare with Goethe, & the Italian with Dante.

both bigger men than Cervantes

Don Quixote & Shakspeare & however far more alike than one would first suppose in things so different.
There is somewhat of the same mighty Omniscience of human nature which is the great ~~attribute~~ of Genius.

Oct. 29th

Perhaps you know this is another week since supra.
Well a good many things has happened. ——
Not the very least in importance thereof is, that yesterday a chap kim round & paid me over twenty five dollar bills & some little ones.
If as he ought he had given me two fifties in addition, I would have sent them to you. I came up to Northfield last night with $120.00 in my pocket, which rapidly diminished to about $70.00. I still owe ~~$~~ 15.00 ~~more~~ borrowed money. & some $5.00 debts. besides a Board Bill of $10 or 15, whereof I labor under Trustee process & cant pay just now.
If I can continue the Borrow, & change V s to a couple of XX s, I will forward them with this soon.

I have left Northfield - Ordered to "Grouts" place 9 miles below. (If I had time I would describe it to you). take the place of Leonard, Alabama gone. A promotion.
I dislike the place much though - werry bad. Every way.
Moreover Leonard was a man of no system. Business all in worst possible shapes, called off so sudden with notice to arrange it.
If I could not straighten things out somewhat I should expect to be a hundred years old in three months of it. Why I can't hardly dream nights. I'll straighten it soon.
It was a good deal of confidence to put in a Yearling to send into such a place; into such a man's shoes too.
I mean to come up to Northfield always Sabbaths (as today). I can't live there. I have a horse to myself you know.

I guess it is Thursday & in the Multiplicity of other cares this letter has not yet gone. I enclose XX. If you can, send to Jos. McKeen Esq. Brunswick $83.00 or 84.00 on my account. if not put it off a month

Aff. J. S. M.

Tariff & Sub-treasury are rather obsolete ideas nowadays.
Besides I have not much time for them just n-o-w.
For principle I believe in "Free Trade" & Direct Taxation.

This is Grounds, Nov. 19th 1848, J. S. Metcalf

Well Joseph, I believe I must write another letter to you about this time; although perhaps I may not find so much to say. This is rather a barren country for News; and for thoughts perhaps still more so, except something or other of RailRoads or Bridges. Cares & perplexities are perhaps more plenty than ideas; (but those I need not write to you as you probably have about your share of them already. To you, I expect, one ought to write something besides of the "actual"; perhaps something to "expose & undermine that solid falsehood, the Material" I believe however I happen to have no ideas of my own, I must go to your letter for some, I guess.

Question, Quotation from Prov. Phil. I do believe in it, and I hardly know how much. Neither can I tell how much of Superstition, or how much of Philosophy is mingled with my faith. The idea of the "Context" is perhaps that things may become so familiar to the imagination as to seem familiar to the senses. One may read & think so much of Palmyra, Rome or Niagara, that when at last visiting them, the very scenes seem familiar. That & much more is mere philosophy, the philosophy of the imagination the other that some would call mere superstition, may be only the same imagination still farther carried out, and more mixed up of Memory & imagination together. Farther than this I hardly know as it would do to go much far. Lest we get out of the world & its Philosophy into some new world of Mesmerism or some kindred affair. By the way these are subjects I hardly dare to look into. There are it seems to me great

mysteries, wonders, perhaps sciences, which we have hardly yet begun even to guess at. "Other senses, wondrous sounds, powers of strange might, quickening unknown elements, and attributes and energies of God which man may never know."

There are great mysteries even in this world: Men of course try to peep into them. I hardly dare to. I did feel interested to search into what ~~migh~~ there might be in those matters connected with what used to be called Mesmerism &c. I do not much. I have about come to the conclusion that this world is not big enough, this life is not long enough. There is enough that we can know, that [illegible] have learned before us, & we can learn of others: Some things, even of those we can get a glimpse of here, we must leave to be learned in another. This matter better be one of them.

"Safer is he that storeth knowledge than he that would make it for himself."

Perhaps I am superstitious. Do you think I am? Every thing I see a mystery about I conclude to leave to another world before I study into. There is enough to do & to learn here without.

Did you perhaps mean to connect the two peices on that scrap of paper? What is the last? Whence? seems to me I have seen it. As for that idea of Prov. Phil. wherein I have realised it most has been in reading; reading something never read or heard of before, read right out my own thoughts & feelings. That is an attribute of a great Book. of real Greatness. Does not every one find it in reading Shakespeare? Ideas entirely new to one, which yet come now seem perfectly natural, familiar as one's one hearth stone: in fact human nature itself, perhaps never seen or felt before. Is not that the Characteristic of Genius?

Is it not Especial to Shakespeare, Homer, Dante, Bunyan & a few, very few more such.? I find it though in Rev. Phil.!

Quite a story that you tell of bad Weld & Old Davis. Is it so believed? If so some Brunswick & Topsham people are not very sorry. The Welds being too aristocratic on too very small a foundation to be very popular at home.

You say some topics you wish to "enlarge" upon. Write, Write. Paper is cheap & postage low, & I am an excellent reader. I write, as you see, every one of the few ideas I get. Perhaps it may do me good to read a few more of some one's else

If there is little Lumbering business done this winter will not Lumber Merchants fare better next Season?

I agree with you fully on "manifest destiny" that there will be more books written, perhaps that there will be more good books. But it is quite another question in my mind whether there are any more needed. that is except mere Scientific Books, to illustrate & explain new discoveries in Science & art. Does it not seem hardly worth the while? There is far more written already than any one can learn in one life time. What's the use of more? Besides it costs too much. One of course ought not to inflict upon the world, as most do, any thing which has been written before. If not he must spend a life time in finding it out. If there is enough written already for others to learn; had he not better spend his life in studying that himself, rather than in trying to teach the world something else.

This is one view of the case: I see in reading over your letter that you have stated another & quite a different view. I hardly think though your statement true that the poet of [illegible] genius has as much opportunity to do a great work as the [illegible]

Nov. 14 1848.

"ancients had not said all our good things before us. Would he not be more likely to write a Faust or a Festus, perhaps still more Festered, rather than a Paradise Lost? I do not know though come to think of it but you think of writing a book yourself. If so — I take back all I have written — If you feel that you that you can really write a book which will make the world wiser or better, or yourself richer & better; my advice is positive — do it. Better be pretty sure of it first though.

That projected title — the envious wafer destroyed it, the one word necessary to the sense of the whole story. What was it? The Battles — unfought? No. Of Life? there is such a title already of Dickens. Of the World? That is it. You say similar to those books of Headly &c. Don't you write it however without you can write a far better book than those sham concerns — that is without you have the assurance of some such introduction as shall make it profitable as those have been. It is however a much better subject than they — more difficult though — and less likely, even if well written to "take".

That "What might have been" is a great field. Without one single new idea or fact, ten times the amount ever written could be spun in that way. Yes — a new three volume Novel on every page of History or fiction ever written!

The best example of that I ever saw was a "Continuation" of Walter Scott's great Novel "Ivanhoe". It really seemed wicked to mutilate such a splendid thing & such characters, but the "Continuation" was great. It was reprinted in Littell's or felt ...

sick with Jaundies. "that solid falsehood, the material"; — "What might have been."

Isaac.

Groúts, Dec. 17th, 1848

Dear Brother Joseph

Yours of the 12th inst duly received. I happen to have a pen in my fingers just now, but am by no meanst confident that I shall write an Epistle in full just yet. If I did its financial tone might be somewhat too apparent: that is if the sheet did not get tinged with certain "stomachic effusions" of a vomitic rather than poetic nature. Did you ever see a Yellow dog? One of the true fool blooded Yallers? Well, I am not going to California. There is no need of it; its all a humbug. I havent got to get a Yaller dog to carry to the Mint either. I believe I shall go myself though. How many half eagles will 165 lbs good weight without boots or hair make? There are all sorts of folks here at our City of Groúts, and I find it perfectly safe to keep my door locked o nights lately, lest some of 'em should turn "Gold Hunters", and clip off "the Engineer's" fingers or toes for yellow boys. Did you ever see any one who had the Jaundice — the real "Yaller Jaundersi" Well I have been just so afflicted in the hardest kind; and it is quite a serious business I assure you. It is quite a rare disease, commonly at most, accasional only in the Spring. But there seems to be some thing peculiar in this miserable abominable little, Millers River upon whose shores I am condemned to dwell; perhaps also in the season At any rate the disease is extremely prevalent here, all along our V. & Mass. R.R. line. and I have had it the very worst kind. As I understand it the Gall overflows and runs all over the system. The "Victim" becomes dull & stupid, almost lifeless, Sleepy: Why I could Sleep 18 or 20 hours out of the 24. Yellow as Saffron; no life left but Nausea.

The first week in December I was so busied & hurried with Estimates &c. that I did not know any thing about it, as it was coming on. Up at 6 A.M. and work till 10 or 11, any how, forgot how I felt, or never stopped to think. 7th. Got Estimates &c. done up; rolled a Hand Car, pretty vigorous exercise by the way 9 miles & back to carry them; got thoroughly wet to boot, (rain) felt hungry & eat hearty and went to work. Hardly eat any thing more for a week; no appetite, sick at the Stomach all the time; swallowing any thing increasing the sickness to positive pain, till it was thrown up. Another peculiar symptom was a strange prickling or itching sensation all over, even to soles of feet & palms of hands, not to be appeased if one scratched the hide all off. Well business pressed. I kept about my work as best I might in this plight for two or three days, worse & worser. Then the Yellow began to come out. Whites of the eyes turned first. "Oh! its the Janders", said every body. "was kind". Then I began to call upon the Doctor. He is a good natured fat old fellow, but with a really high reputation. Well he dosed me, & dosed. He gave me Emetics, & physics, & alteratives, &c. &c. And it all had the same effect. Whatever he gave me, it vomited me, just like whatever I eat. Nothing staid down. Then I swallowed raw Eggs & hard Cider, & the Dr gave doses of Soot — creosote, I suppose till I wasn't sick all the time, eat a baked Apple & did not throw it up. & thereupon kept improving till I can eat most any thing in small quantities, & and not sick much!

"Getting along first rate" &c. &c. &c. &c. &c.

To day, being pleasant & Sunday, I rode out over to Montague to Church, & the pure air after long clouds, & the getting away from this Grounds, & a good Meeting &c. &c. have done me good like two doses.

Last week I laid down, or sat up & smoked, or stood at the door, and told other folks what to do. This week I shall go out and do it myself.

"Explain "that solid falsehood the Material"." Simply that it is not these mere external things of time & sense that are the true "realities", but rather the "ideal World" so called, the mighty things of the soul & its thoughts, ideas not things, the "mighty past & the illimitable future". Consider a moment — is it not so? Which is the true reality, the fleeting transitory thing, that Material, that you lay your hand of flesh upon today, but which ten thousand secondary causes may destroy, I will not now say annihilate tomorrow, or rather the Eternal thought, the idea, whose being the fiat of Omnipotence itself declares is forever & forever.

There is a "great thought" in the theory of that speculative old German or Russian, I forget his name, that there is no such thing as the Material as a thing, as materiality; but Infinite Power has invested certain — not atoms — but points of space with certain faculties — of attraction & repulsion for instance. If you strike your fist against the wall, it is not that there is really any thing there, but simply that God has ordered a particular property, an idea to be there displayed. So there is nothing Material but the Will of God. The failure of that Will for a moment would annihilate the Universe.

"Extract from Broo. Phil." I judge that your imagination is not a very correct one, if you never imagined a thing aright.

I hope you did not give me credit for that other Extract from Broo. Phil. As for your renewed question about "some newest circumstance &c." I cannot say that I really remember any particular instance in my experience. But then it seems somehow just as if it might be.!

I guess I have faith.

The first week in December I was so busied & hurried with Estimates &c. that I did not know any thing about it, as it was coming on. Up at 6 AM. and work till 10 or 11. any how, forgot how I felt, or never stopped to think.
7th Got Estimates &c. done up; rolled a Hand Car, pretty vigorous exercise that was.

"Battles of the World" might make a book similar to Headley's; if no better, it would be "no great shakes". I judge though that it might be. It might not however take so well. "Battles of Life" might be a far higher subject. — Who is sufficient for these things?

"What Might have been". I see plainly you'll never make a successful "Novel Writer." those "Close semi-Mathematimatical deductions of probabilities" might be ingenious & curious &c. "And a' that"; but would probably fail entirely — would drop down into an awful gulf of a chasm between the truth of History, and the Charm of Fiction. There is however a great field there.

Package per Robbins Express came safely & speedily to hand.

"Eliab has in considerable degree learned a good trade" He has not probably learned any more of it than would be extremely convenient for an Engineer to know. — But little more of it perhaps than I have got to learn — not so much of some branches of it maybe.

The Box 10 ft below surface, water replaced with equal weight of Lead. air tight — would be of same bulk as before, same weight + weight of a certain bulk of air at surface, to fill the vacancy in bulk of lead. sink a bit, would it not?

Alison is in high repute as a Historian; that is with Loyal Englishmen. Lacks impartiality. Strongly prejudiced against all "Liberalism" for a "Constitutional Monarchy" &c. Thiers I have never read. is a very interesting writer indeed. is a little smiling fragment of a Man 3 or 4 feet high very much thought of by Frenchman. "Lively" to last degree

Isaac.
Anti-metaphysics. Money matters. Costly construction of Vt & Ms. R.R.

Grouts. Jan. 20th 1849

Dear Joseph

Yours of the 3d, 11th Inst. duly received. I do not know about your castigation of that "old crazy transcendentalist". He may be not much more so than I am myself: at least, I see nothing so very terrible about it, unscriptural, or contrary to "Mudsills" though perhaps it might seem to be to Mud heads.

What is Prof Upham's definition of the Ludicrous? I do not remember. Please also to bear in mind that I do not profess to have any one single particle of Metaphysics in my composition. If I had lived in the middle ages I should have been perfectly content to pass for a Fool. Therefore, I know nothing, and say nothing of Upham or Hobbes, or of Kant, Cousin, or Fichte. In fact I believe I have hardly got as far as Fichte's first direction to his disciples. I am hardly able to "think the Wall". Prof. Upham certainly has the reputation of being a great Metaphysician, is distinguished as such.

Tell me all about your experience of mysteries &c. as to those matters discussed in connection with those extracts from Proverbial Philosophy.

Money Matters. The last time I had any Money I thought to send you somewhat say $50. for Safe Keeping; but it then appeared probable that I might leave here soon &c. and other causes in my mind operating prevented. I have recently bought a Watch: Silver Lever Hunter's or Double Case. Cost some. I ha[...] [...]id Board & other [...]

Bills two months in advance of my wages; and have now only about a necessary sum left in hand.

V. & Mass. owe me at present some $150.00 When the Pay Day comes along I shall be in funds, and shall be happy to forward a portion to you ward.

These times are called easier; but still it is rather hard times with Vermont & Mass. Rail Road [illegible]

The running furniture and every thing connected with putting in operation a Rail Road of 60 or 70 miles length costs something. It does not take a great many ten thousand dollar Engines twenty or twenty five hundred dollar Cars, &c. &c. &c. to amount to something of a Bill, in addition to regular running expenses and Salaries & wages of several hundreds of men.

The Authorities of this Road too are not fond of Economy; or at least of Cheapness. Every thing must be most substantial. The Road has cost more than almost any other: is said to be the most thoroughly built of any in the State; and that too with the Stock at 30 per cent. So too with the Road furniture. None but the very first Class 22½ ton Locomotives; Passenger Cars &c all of the very handsomest, fitted up like Aldermen's Drawing Rooms. And so throughout to the least things: All the best most substantial & permanent.

Perhaps I better explain the singular characters on that line towards the top of this page. At that point in this writing, sundry Irish were arraigned before me on charge of Stealing "Company Wood." and those are some of the remarks noted in process of the trial! Verdict "Guilty!" Sentence "Wages Stopped" "Move"!

"Acton" I never even heard of. I do not at present move in [illegible] literary Circles! [illegible]

As for your new theory. I hardly know whether there is anything in it that has not been thought of before. (You know I am a perfect Sceptic with regard to "Original Ideas"; firmly believing with the Old Roman that "those Ancients said all our good things before us.") As for the purely Chemical part of your theory, perhaps you would find it all laid down in some of the new works on Chemistry. "Draper's" for instance; which by the way is an extremely valuable work; would suit you very much. ~~One of the~~ as ~~most~~ interesting a book perhaps as you ever read. and thoroughly scientific too. Draper's theories of Light would set you to thinking *some*. As for the electrical part of your theory, if you should hear some of old Prof. Cleaves Lectures, the Electricity, Galvanism & Magnetism Course, you would think the old gentleman had got a few ideas. If you can elaborate from your theory or theories the exact definite *Modus Operandi* of any distinct Atmospheric, thermal, or Magnetic Change; can deduce it logically from fixed premises, develope & explain it naturally & fully, you may do something, though perhaps not original, just worth the while. *If* you fairly succeed in so doing, call to it the attention of Prof. Cleaveland, Morse or Espy.

Suppose I call your attention to one of the most curious & unexplainable of all Chemical phenomena: *Anchor Ice*. so called. Water you know like other substances contracts in bulk by loss of Caloric; but by a singular exception to the general law, this contraction ceases at a definite point; it becomes a solid with *increase* of bulk, diminished Spec. Grav. consequently the ice is on top. So far so good: it is only a great natural law, with a most important & most benevolently designed exception, all to be accounted for in great natural principles: But, entirely at variance with theory, law, principle, comes in *Anchor Ice*. inexplicable & astounding. Many & learned theories, some founded on the curious science of Crystallography

have been brought forward; but none is really satisfactory; none can be demonstrated. There is still room for much careful experiment, analysis, investigation, study.

What do you think of the present position of Republican France, its Constitution, & its new President.?

What do you think of the Southern Caucus of Messrs Calhoun Foote & Co.? Two or three Northfield Young Men have just started for California. Who goes from Bangor?

Joseph Addison Stevens predicts that our whole family will be in Wisconsin in (a few years).

Joseph you know is at work on the Rail Road: is most of the time here at Grants with me, one of my Assistants. He is a grand good fellow, but he is a sad skeptic. one of the Theodore Parker school in full.

I want to get hold of Thos. Babbington Macaulay's new great work, "History of England": probably one of the very greatest of Historical Works.

What is the expense of journey from Boston to Bangor at this season of the year.?

Anne seems rather backward about writing; Allowance must however be made for the length of time required for the transit. I received from her the other day, "Racine Advocate", a paper, strongly Freesoil, apparently well conducted; but laboring to prove ~~that~~ Plank Roads are superior to Rail Roads! Is it best for me to go out there & endeavor to enlighten them, where [illegible] wrong? Did you ever see or hear of "Ewbank's Hydraulics"? Would you be interested in it.?

I must stop.

Good Night J. S.

Isaac
"Parvartin scriptes": Metaphysics. Mysteries: anchor &c.

Northfield, Sat. Eve. Feb. 24th, 1849

Dear Brother, your letter was received quite lately. I have been extremely busy lately & my correspondence is sadly behindhand, but as you are invalided and a letter may aid in consoling you, I will try to write a bit this evening. By the way your letter was strangely delayed on the road; mailed the 16th & arrived at Gronds from the West on the 23d! It is sometime since I have been wanting to write to Lucy & Milo, as well as Eliale & have not got a chance yet.

In reply to your letter, I must first observe that your comparisons betray an abominable lack of correct knowledge of scripture history. It is years since I read "the Connection", but I venture to affirm that Asahel, though "swift of foot as a wild Roe", was not "the Son of Jesse" as you insinuate. Beware of "parvartin the scriptur". Asahel was the son of Zeruiah, and brother of Joab & Abishai, and was smitten by Abner the son of Ner, under the fifth rib, after due warning, as he "followed hard after him", without his harness.

Secondly. What business have you to be sick, especially to have the "palsy & the Rheumatism"? Moreover I do not believe in Blisters, Strychnia, Ammonia and all that class of remedies. I should be afraid of them. I should prefer "Alterative" of quite different sort. If you have been much in habit of Cold bathing, that alone would not be the effectual thing. Change; quit that: Try copious, abundant warm bathing or hot bathing; with also free & copious evacuations, either Lobelia Emetics, or else Thorough Purgatives. M.D.s might say Calomel. I should prefer Rhubarb or something similar. Such is my theory. Still, I do not know but I should prefer to consult & even follow prescriptions of really superior educated, scientific Physicians. There is something prevalent here. You know it was a very sickly season, every one sick. Dysentery &c. kindred diseases. These diseases left very many with sorts of Chronic Rheumatism: Sciatica or something. for months many have not yet recovered from the effects, the dregs of their last summer's ills.

Are you really acquainted with Chess? Pity you had not someone to play with you.

You do misuse that old beforementioned German. Can it really be I, — matter of fact, common sense, 'practical man', as I am, should be "Trancendentalist." An Engineer too; the most practical of all human employments — Impossible. Why, if I have one spark of Trancendentalism about me. I am certainly very much out of place in my present profession & employment. At any rate, as I said before, I am not a Metaphysician. As for "the Ludicrous" Hobbes' definition of it is certainly to me at least most trancendentally & ununderstandably Ludicrous.

My experience of 'Mysteries' too has been very much inferior to yours. I do not know as I ever saw anything more in want of an explanation than some Mathematical problem or Diagram. Your argument in explanation of Mysteries is so overburdened with Metaphysics that I ~~hardly~~ understand it all in the 'premise'. The 'Conclusion' I judge lacks Mathematics; requires more Permutation & Combination. However, I should judge it a strong argument, but rather misapplied, when addressed to an Engineer! I am sorry my Friend, Classmate, & Brother in ΔKE, Henry J. Ware of Athens, is not alive. If he were, I would certainly introduce you to one another by letter immediately. How you both would enjoy such a discussion! It is a pity you & he could not ~~have~~ read Lucretius together.

I do not now take N. Y. Tribune. My subscription ran out, & I did not know where I would be to have it directed. Money. I have a very little now shall have more sometime; think I will send $ 40.00 to Eliab at Bangor for you. Man is as properly an incarnate Skeleton as a Carrion of the same size & shape; perhaps no more so. Why & how is "Draper's Chemistry" out of your reach? It costs $.75 cts. I "owe you one" — a very particular one, on Original ideas. — Consciousness, my ground of belief. Good. All perfectly true however, no joking about it. Original idea. Well in few words. An idea is a thought. An original idea is a thought never before thought ~~by another~~. Looking at the Matter Mathematically, as an Engineer, I certainly see probabilities exceeding slight of a new one being conceived or thought

Anchor Ice. Your explanation is certainly rather crude. If the Earth was in the habit of freezing one hundred times as much as it now does, and water froze no easier than at present, it might be possible for the frost to burrow under the beds of rivers and coming up freeze the stones &c, and make ice stick to them, but it would hardly be anchor ice even then. But that could not happen under the present dispensation. Your illustration also is unfortunate. We have no such thing as "Gunter's Chain". We use a hundred foot Chain with foot links. The contractors also belong to the "Crowbar". Moreover the ice or cold iron thrown into water would be not anchored but adhering and to flatten you clear out, it would all melt off in fifteen minutes!

Anchor ice is not froze on to the bottom, but lies there because it is heavier than the water. It looks & feels most like snow lying on the bottom, but examined you see that it is composed of minute atoms of ice, pure crystalized Water dropped together there simply by its own gravity. The Question is, and returns how comes it by this strange, unaccountable, all at once, gravity, so apparently contrary to all reason & nature?

R. R. Sleepers, or Cross Ties. Cedar I know nothing of, except that I should suppose it would be best; it is not found in this region at all. Chestnut, is used almost altogether here, it is perhaps the most common wood in all this region, where Chestnut is not so very abundant Oak is very much used. On W. & Mass. we use for dimensions 7½ feet long, "6in fill & 6in face". That is — You know they are generally hewed or sawed on two opposite sides of faces. 6in "fill" is required or thickness between these faces. "6in face" or width of the hewed or flat side, though if the stick is big enough, sides enough, less than 6in face, in spots is accepted. Some roads lay 7 ft. long Sleepers, in fact we have miles here. I do not know but it is as good. On various of our Cognate Railroads, the rule is "7in fill, 5in face", instead of ours "6in fill 6in face".

Price. Various, dependent upon abundance & convenience of Timber to the point of delivery. I have contracted for them from 19 cts. to 25 cts. This is a very Timber Country. In many places they cost much more 30 or even 40 cts. All along the Sea board I should think Sleepers must come from "Down East". You know prices there better than I do

Stop a minute — Perhaps I have got a Metaphysical idea crawling through my hair. You say that "Perceptions & Conceptions are essentially the same: the latter are but the former taken at second hand" Is not that fundamentally, and at the very root of the whole matter an absolute denial & total overthrow of your whole doctrine of "Original Ideas". There — to my mind it is as plain as Mathematics, It amounts to a demonstration. If Conceptions are only Old, perceptions of course there can be nothing Original. I'll stop here.

Politics certainly appear encouraging. The annexation of Texas & Mexico fordian Territory, the Election of Taylor, and the Southern Caucus &c. have done & are doing great good in arousing Anti Slavery Sentiment throughout the North. The Election of Ex Gov. Wm. H. Seward to the U.S. Senate from N.Y. is certainly a great triumph, a direct triumph over the J.A. Collier & Fillmore Taylorism. Then think of S.P. Chase of Ohio in the U.S. Senate! A full blooded Liberty party Man! The Next Congress will have not a few men of the right stamp in it. Chas. Allen, Palfrey & Mann of Mass. Wilson & Tuck of N.H. By the way what a speech that Wilson made! People here who have heard him before Juries think he is about the most Eloquent man in the World.

It is too bad that Maine should be so represented in Congress. Just to think of that James Wiley! How I should like to boot him. Do you think the last part of Macaulay's History will be inferior?

I have expected to get Down East before this time, I may now be out of business & along there in a few weeks, and I may stay right here all Summer. May be in Ohio or Illinois before April first.

Please write soon & frequently

I am anxious to hear again about your Lameness &c.

J. S. Metcalf
March 26 1849

March 19th 1849. Monday Morning

Dear Brother Joseph

I [illegible] the [illegible] moment to inform you that, contrary to my expectations a week since, I have not yet reached Bangor. Where I really am, is perhaps a more difficult matter to inform you of. About as much as I know is that I am on the line of a new rail road, commonly called (to be) the "New Hampshire Central Rail Road" designed to extend from the City of Manchester clear across the State to Windsor Vermont. Twenty miles or so of it, or as far as Henniker, is to be built this season.

Witness the uncertainty & vanity of human calculations, one week since I expected to visit before this time, Worcester, [illegible], Boston, Portsmouth, Portland, Bangor, Home, and friends. Turned out of my course, the first day I reached Boston instead of Worcester. The next day the city of Manchester. Then I thought I would take stage & go through the country through Epping, where I have a particular friend, to Exeter, then to take the R. R. but being too late for the stage that day I went out on the line, and here I am.

I did intend to deliver some "funds" to you for safe keeping. Since the first of January I have received nearly $[illegible]. Some of it was due, & spent some. I believe I sent $40.00 to you, & to Eliza for you. I did intend to carry home $100. But I spent $40. or 50. for clothing $15. for a [illegible], $[illegible] for mathematical and engineering instruments; some for books, and &c. &c. besides "current expenses"; while [illegible] much [illegible]

However, I am earning more. I sent [illegible] Jos. A. [illegible] [illegible] $30.00 which I directed him to send by letter to you, when he got done with it. And I guess I will send $20.00 which I can safely spare, in [illegible]. [illegible] [illegible] you [illegible], and have opportunity, you may write how our money account stands, if you please.

I am very anxious to hear from you. The last I heard from you you remember was that you were sick or lame at Milo. Do write as soon as you receive this.

Appearances continue [illegible] to show me as extremely fortunate or favored. I was certainly lucky in obtaining a situation [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] engineering on the [illegible] [illegible]. Then I guess it is rather a rare thing for an Engineer out [illegible] out of business to find employment within a week! I would have [illegible] [illegible] strange, it would not [illegible] at the present time, scarcity of business, and [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] rail roads; if it had been a whole year before I could find a tolerable situation. The uncertainty & difficulty of obtaining constant employment is commonly considered the worst thing about the business of Engineering.

Whether I have ever answered your last letter to me is rather more than I can at present tell. I rather think [illegible] [illegible] [illegible]. At any rate, it is [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] to write another [illegible].

I was on leaving the [illegible] so uncertain about getting [illegible] [illegible] [illegible]; that a [illegible] good [illegible] [illegible] I had [illegible] to change [illegible] [illegible], [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] friends of the "Mammon of Unrighteousness"; or at least

[illegible]

[illegible] among the contractors [illegible] the President [illegible] Branch [illegible]

[illegible]

[illegible] Camden [illegible]

[illegible] been here [illegible]

[illegible] Lawson [illegible] liked much, the best [illegible]

we had on the [illegible], took quite a liking to me and [illegible]

[illegible]

[illegible] had just taken a large job [illegible]

[illegible] on 10 or 12 miles of this same [illegible] R.R. and

[illegible]

[illegible] legent.

To be sure I think he must have had a better opinion of my business capacity than I have myself. [illegible] he would have done well [illegible], [illegible] ally, and eventually understanding [illegible] the profits and getting into Rail Road Contra[illegible]

[illegible]

[illegible] Brother Joseph! [illegible] health has [illegible]

[illegible]

[illegible] it. But just now I am quite encouraged [illegible] ever.

[illegible] I shall [illegible] wages here at present that I had last on the [illegible] $2.00 per diem, and pay my [illegible] here will be a little less than they were there.

[illegible]

[illegible]

[illegible]

I saw a man here yesterday; that I heard was in Danger. (or the Clark Agent of F. B. C. R. R.
in West Goffstown N.H. wearing Clay, & very pained Church.
Where & what is David Anderson? Do you know any thing of him? Who is Dana, ... think I have is a Minister? ... ... ... the ... ... if you do not ... where they are? It was almost Temple ... in the Odd Fellows at Mansfield. ... ... it ... ... the ... ... ... ... West?

I ... think of having my letters directed to

... ... Chase Esq. Eng. C.H.C. R.R.

Manchester N.H.

as wherever I am on the line I could get them pretty readily through him.

But here is a ... very near where one of my men lives and I can ... letters by him.

I believe it is "Oil Mill Village, ~~Weare~~, N.H."

At any rate this will be mailed there.

The place where I now board is "Parkers", a little Village in the West part of West Goffstown, near a corner of ... ... one mile from Oil Mill Village, inhabited principally by Parkers, with the principal of whom I am, good ... ...
... Sincerely ... ... ...

I wish you would ... with me ... ... ... ... ... Books ... and perhaps will ... ... Bank ... ... I shall wish to send Home if ... ... today ...

Isaac.
Situation as Section Engineer on N.H. Central R.R. anchor ice. Macauley's Hist. England. Medical advice. Monetary condition. against low spirits &c. Compliments my mental character &c. Care of health. Apr 8 1849.

"Parkers" West Goffstown N.H. April 8th 1849

Dear Brother Joseph. Your last Letter dated Milo, March 8th has finally been received. It was mailed at Bangor, I suppose, received in the [illegible] Mail at Grouts, remailed there March 21st, for Bangor, there re-mailed again, March 29th for Goffstown N.H. and finally brought to me in Weare N.H. April 2d or 3d. Went the rounds.
Elijah hardly knew what to think when he found Letters found Letters for me in the Bangor Post Office, Mailed from Grouts before any one there suspected I had left Grouts.

I am just now in an extreme quandary. I have very unexpectedly got a situation here on the New Hampshire Central Rail Road. Mr. Chase, the Chief Engineer likes me; puts all confidence in me; Offers to do very well by me; and is very anxious I should stay. I have just begun to get a good deal interested in the Line, getting acquainted with the people & I like the Country and the stopping places. Every thing much preferable to my places in Mass, and cheaper too. Moreover it is a Long Route. Only twenty five Miles of it is to be built this Season, but the road will undoubted eventually extend clear across the State to Windsor Vermont. This will make quite a job of it, and if I am fortunate & satisfactory it may be quite a permanent situation. I hate badly to just begin any thing & then Quit. The beginning is all the disagreeable.

That is one horn of the dilemma, and certainly very agreeable. The other is this. Mr. A. R. Field, my old R. R. Supt. Superior with whom I have always been, and who has always done very kindly in his power for me & helped me forward all he could; and whose eulogistic recommendation procured me this Situation. — This. Mr Field Esq has just been appointed to the Charge of the "Ashuelot" R.R. from Keene to Winchester N.H. 15 Mi.

He is extremely anxious that I should go right in there with him. Commence Surveys next Thursday. One Year's employment. I should be second Eng on the road. Have charge of it under Mr Field as Chief, and know that he would do every thing in his power for me & my interests. Mr Field, "Alfred", and I have been together so long, we understand each other perfectly. He depends a great deal upon me, entirely in many things and in fact feels as if he could not get along without me.

Then is the Quandary. What to do I do not know!

At any rate I must go over and see Mr Field. We are extremely busy here, but I believe I shall go over to Maine on Wednesday or Thursday.

Anchor Ice. My acquaintance therewith is certainly a good deal of the Theoretical, but also somewhat at least of the Practical. At any rate I have seen it. It seems you and Sumner have not or have not noticed it. I presume it is not often if ever found in the Piscataquis. It must be however I think in Pleasant River. Wilson's River is great for it. It may be found perhaps in most brooks, at some places, at some time or times, most every season. I remember seeing it of old in "Our Brook" east of the Old House at Milo. There was a time last fall when Miller's River, where I was at Grants was so full of Anchor Ice, as to raise the water flowing over it a foot or two. It was probably some phenomena connected with the subject of Anchor Ice which occasioned the remarkable Ice Freshet on the Penobscot three years or four since. Your "prescription" "exact observation careful Chemical Analysis &c." has been followed perfectly by men of the highest qualifications. The Parker Cleaveland L.L.D. & F. Now of all Member of Am. & for. Scientific Societies, has devoted much characteristic time, talent, & learning, to the subject. He has a peculiar theory of accounting for it founded upon some deep, thorough Crystalographical researches.

Macaulay, T. Babington, History of England. I have the Cheap Edition of the two first volumes. Have read only part of the first, the Introduction. That I believe is superior to all my reading. That part certainly stands well by itself, if you never read the rest.

Illinois or Wisconsin. Present appearances do not seem to indicate that I shall go thither for some days at least.

Health. I presume that relaxation from business, country air & exercise will soon remove all traces of your complaint. I do not however like the idea of your system of Doctoring. Strychnine, blistering &c. &c. There is just so much of a man; husband well the amount whatever it is. Do not tear off or throw away part, there is none to spare, none to be lost by blood letting, blistering, effect of poisons &c. Let Nature recruit her own energies; assist her if need be. Cleanse & purify the system perhaps by use of Water. Use not harsh remedies for Chronic complaints. I should have more confidence in the full Water Cure for your case.

Sat. Eve. 14th. I went over to Keene Wed. back Thurs. Hired a horse & went over across the Country 40 mls. Under the foot of Monadnoc &c. Fine ride &c. It was hard indeed getting away from there, I tell you; but I believe I finally did, and am now pretty regularly fixed as Eng. in Charge ~~in Charge~~ Sec. Div. N.H. C.R.R. My jurisdiction is 10 or 12 miles, helpers 5 or six. Pay $ 60.00 per month, which I expect to Earn, intend to at least.

Statement: "It's satisfactory & more favorable than I anticipated. Jos. A. Stevens, Depot Master at Grouts has in his hands $ 30.00 of mine which he was directed when ready to forward to you. Apr. 1st. I had perhaps $ 20.00 spare with me. Making say $ 150.00 remains of my first 18 mos. Engineering. besides $ 123.00 paid Jos. McKeen and somewhat I forget exactly I owed you, and a small item or two I owed beside. Perhaps in all $ 300.00 beside being personally somewhat better furnished than when I commenced. So you see I do not ~~[illegible]~~ forget those dollars. I have now got fairly started, am in receipt of $ 720. per annum; if I have constant business & good luck I intend to save nearly or quite $ 500.00 this year. I expect to be considerate whatever funds I have ought to be invested in R.R. Stocks or Bonds. If you have left business, how are your funds disposed? Is the money worth 6 per c to you?

April 22d, Your Letter of April 14th &c. is received yesterday.
I hardly know just what to write to you. Your Letter troubled me very much, and I have been thinking of it ever since.
To be sure the subjects you advert to are very proper for any one at any one, at any time. It is every one's duty to attend to their will & every thing therewith connected. I shall attend to mine as soon as I have any property &c.
I have been thinking for a year or two of certain final requests &c. I wished to be understood in case of accident or evil. But what do you mean by an "impression" that you are not to be much more an "actor in the world"? Have you any right to such an impression? You say you may have more reason than I suppose. If there is any grounds pray explain it.
You have a constitution better than most even of those who live to Old Age; You have probably really injured it less than most of your age by fewer irregularities & injurious habits. You are now suffering under an attack occasioned by some injury, which however I cannot see to injure your prospect of a long & eminently useful existence here. Your bodily health, I see no reason to think will not be as good as it ever was within a few months. As for Mental Health which you mention, probably few ever enjoyed a greater share than do you. This is both hereditary, Natural, Educational, and cultivated. Yours is eminently a Sound Minded race; the whole history of both roots of the family is conclusive. Metcalfs & Stevens, will uniformly be found both sound & strong, compared with those about them. In yourself centre these qualities in a rather unusual degree. Your mind is singularly well balanced. Among young men of my acquaintance there is no mind of equal practical wisdom. I do not say this in flattery, but in fact, the lessons of Wisdom which I am learning year by year from Experience, and I feel too learning faster than many around me are learning them, I recognize as your counsels, perhaps despised long before.
You should be the last one to permit yourself to be troubled by any thing like Hypochondria. I do not know as you are; but it struck me that perhaps the great change in your habits connected with leaving your usually ingrossing business, and retiring to Milo, might to your active mind, make you low spirited.
At any rate do not give way to any such feelings. Make up your mind to be, as you were designed to be, and deserve to be, abundantly active & influential in the world. Very much indeed I want to come home to Milo this Spring and see you, but I have a great amount of business on my hands, and am like to have. Whether I may be able to get away for a week or two in the course of the Summer is quite uncertain. At any rate you have now no excuse in lack of leisure to write to me. If I cannot come home & you do not become engaged in business, I shall absolutely insist upon your coming on here and making me a visit. It would do you good, and really benefit me more than you can well imagine. I could afford to pay you pretty well for it. I should like my business compared with yours. Perhaps I might [think] that it was best for you & Eliab to quit Mercantile life, and go to "Railroading" in some form. It is a very extensive business, and shrewd men will prosper.

April 22d. Joseph, if your disease is Chronic, I am very much opposed to your use of Violent remedies, no matter what the doctors say. Moderate, gentle exercise, warm bathing, gentle laxative diet; if you could only live upon our N.H. "Rye & Indian" Bread. If your bowels are not perfectly free, lax & easy, by all means attend to it, and carefully. A Pill as big as a small Pea, of Rhubarb taken every night will do you more good than all the medicines of all the Doctors. But above all things do not get to taking the Physic & Medicines of the Doctors. As for My health, I am careful of it. I have learnt wisdom. I intend to husband it to the best possible advantage. I have much to do with it. Health has done much for me, & I intend to be careful of it. I have drawn largely upon a large Stock. Probably not much more than one constitution in ten would stand unimpaired the Draft of my Collegiate Education. I believe mine did. Since then I have in eighteen months done the work and gained the station perhaps of three or four years of Engineering, and I believe have not injured my health. Perhaps, I have weakened my Eyes. They are the first part of the Engineer to fail. The use of Telescopes in the field is hardest of all business for eyes. Drafting by night is bad enough.
My Eyes are still strong & capable of powerful service, & accustomed to it too. Moreover I have already placed myself so high that I can generally have others to look through the glasses for me; and if I am prospered as heretofore may in a few years be in condition to receive Salaries without wearing Service

Perhaps it will be as well for your letters hereafter to be directed to me at "Goffstown" or "West Goffstown" N.H. rather than the Oil Mill Village. I can perhaps get letters as well, and I shall have more confidence in the P.O. Is there any reason why you should not write to me *immediately* upon the receipt of this; as soon as May 1st at least? J. S. Metcalf

J. J. Metcalf, J. E. Metcalf, which is the best?

Congenial. Tendency to soar & branch off. Routes to journey thither.

Isaac

Weare N. H. May 16th, 1849

Dear Joseph

It is some days since I received your letter. I was intending to write immediately after receiving it; but — I am so busy — that I do not always do every thing I intend — except in matters of business. I do not know but I write too many letters, for one with so much on hands and mind, as I have.

I expect there is a difference between your letters & mine. Perhaps there is between your mind & mine. Perhaps it is rather the result of the different tendencies of our occupations.

There seems to be in your letters a, (to me, strange) tendency to soar, to branch off on every occasion into Metaphysics, or some kindred matters. You cannot, from the very nature of your intellectual constitution, be a trancendentalist. No cultivation could induce it. But you have a tendency to think, talk, argue, about "Philosophy" in the ancients' application of the term; Mind, thought, feeling, and the developements, and phenomena thereof. Now herein I cannot argue or sympathise with you. I have a 'dim remembrance' of a time when I took an interest in such matters, when I perceived something in Upham Wayland, Cousin, Butler &c. in matters of their sort. In fact, I suspect I might have had more inclination that way naturally than you. Naturally it would have been far easier making a trancendentalist, a German, out of me, than you.

But —— I am an Engineer. Mine is the most intensely practical, perhaps I should say, Materializing of all human occupations. The Engineer has to do with things. What are thoughts to him? He may be a Naturalist, in its broadest, or Minutest sense. He cannot well

be a Metaphysician, or any thing of kindred anatomy
Now I feel an interest in all things, in the Whole Material Universe. from the Granite Mountain, or the hosts of heaven, to the minutest plant, animalcula, or atom in existence: in all God's works from Mightiest to minutest; and also in all the Works of Man, in every thing Material, whether Natural or Artificial.

This is quite an extended "remark"! It was suggested by noticing, as I glanced over your letter, your remarks upon "Anchor ice"; and your comparison of it, a subject, with that you mention of "Kindred Spirits". You stigmatise "Anchor ice" as "dead, cold, heartless" Well I suppose it is ~ So are all the subjects of my contemplations, labors, and business; yet I am very much interested in them all. This subject of anchor ice is one wherein I am much interested; far more so than in any of your dull, dry speculations upon thoughts & feelings. It would have to be very cold windy weather indeed for Anchor ice to get as dry as these last are.

I have a great mind not to refrain from 'boring' you some more on the Anchor ice topic. You should understand that this ice is not really "adhering" to the bottom. It simply lies there because it is heavier than the water. There is but one kind that I know of. The question is, simply of Specific Gravity. The obliquity of the Crystals depends probably merely on the current. You doubt the fact of the rise of Mill River from Anchor ice. That fact I have witnessed and know. Why should it not? A broad shallow stream: water from one to five feet deep only, one, two, three, feet of ice lying on the bottom. Flowing over this, must it not rise? Your surmise of "Mineral Solution" is ingenious — but ——— !

Your insinuation to combat some or any of my medicinal or hygeanic opinions, had better be doubted, perhaps exploded.

There appears at present but little prospect of my going [illegible].

circumstances do now make it advisable that you should visit me not merely in the course of the summer, but immediately, right away, directly, as soon as possible & convenient. Let there be no delay not strictly necessary & unavoidable. Remember that although the season is somewhat wet muddy & disagreeable in the Hyperborean & Hyperbolian oriental regions where you inhabit yet it is pretty tolerable May & most June in these parts. My Land Lord planted an acre of Corn May day to be sure, it isn't up yet: but it's "Coming". Trees are leaving.

Routes & Expenses.

From Nile to Bangor you can probably judge as well as I. I find of Sea voyages, (sometimes beneficial to invalids you know?) by steam boat from Bangor to Boston. Fare one to three dollars Meals extra. Whatever time you choose to stay in Boston "Adams" or "Marlboro" "Adams" best; $ 1.50 per day, I believe, perhaps more. Lowell R.R. Depot. twice a day, or more, 5. P.M. I believe if you choose. the ~~regular~~ to Express Train, if you wish to go through, Lowell, Nashua, Manchester, Concord thence to White River Montpelier, Lake Champlain, New York or Canada.

Fare to Manchester $ 1.15 If you should acquaint me perhaps a week beforehand with the exact period of your arrival at this latter City, perhaps I could meet you there with my own team of No. 1 to much better. I like to go to Head Quarters sometimes. If not, there is a Stage, daily I suppose, probably from Noon train, 1. 2 or 3 oclock, for Henniker & Hillsboro'. Either pass through and leave passengers at a place called "Parker's" in Goffstown N.H. 1½ m. from West Goffstown Vill. for 10 Miles from Manchester. Fare $ 0.50 arrived there anyone can direct you to the "Engineer" or his boarding place. G. W. Parker

If you wish to go "through", Whole time of transit, Bangor to Parker's somewhat less than 24 hours.

The before mentioned is probably the best &c. route.
Others might be adopted, viz. R.R. from Portland to Lawrence, thence Lowell Nashua, Manchester. But as a general rule if you wish to go from any one point in New England to any other, Go first to Boston It is usually the best way to go from Brunswick to Bangor, or from Portsmouth to Manchester, or Manchester to Keene.
The above answers your enquiry as regards Lowell; as for Royalston, or Warwick, they are harder points to reach. Via, Fitchburg, & Vt. & Mass. or Nashua Groton, Fitchburg, Vt. & Mass. But I will tell you all about that & thing when you get here. You want to go no where else till after you come here. Whenever should you go into that out of the way section of the world, Royalston & Warwick, your best point first would perhaps be the Celebrated "Grouts" where resides your most valuable cousin, as far as I am acquainted. Take them all round, that is as far as I am acquainted; I have about come to the conclusion that our relatives are not so much superior to "common folks. as one might be led to imagine. There is a great deal in the "breed". Sometimes you will find just the right "Cross".

Much obliged for your view of your parts, It revived in my mind a very distinct impression of the whole condition and adjoinments at Milo. Did me almost as much good as a visit there. Jane "innominata" made me laugh as Engineers are not apt to laugh.

I do not know whether I have ever replied to, or mentioned the receipt of a letter of your & Mothers, directed to Grouts after I left there, and received by me a very long time out of its regular course, a few weeks since. Several letters had passed each way. while that was wrongly delayed at Grouts.
I regret the loss of a letter I suppose, from Mother, sometime last winter. I have never seen or heard thereof except in allusions, in Mother's

Congeniality ~~as~~ Being an Engineer I do not think much upon such matters
Cannot help <u>feeling</u> some though sometimes. This gives me another idea; that
perhaps our before mentioned difference and tendency of habits & occu
pations may be rather in thought than in feeling. Engineers may have
all the feelings of other folks, Metaphysicians or even poets, only their thoughts
are different. Instead of thinking them out, they are shut up to warm their
hearts inside. {N.B. I leave you to judge of the poetic or metaphysic merit of this
last thought; I cannot see as it has any other!} Well I confess to the "feeling"
you advert to; but I have been used to pass it by with the idea of my
friend Nancy, that such & such a person ~~is~~ "isn't <u>our Sort</u>"
Another thing; is this feeling exactly a good one; as far as it is merely a lack of
sympathy with evil, of course it is good. But may we not have such a
wrong feeling as fostering, cultivating a sort of uncongeniality in ourselves
when the difference is in ourselves not in others; and we to blame for it. A sort
of feeling which is neither more nor less than a selfish egotistic
pride. Ought we not, as men, philanthropists and Christians
to rather struggle against this. If we are really better, purer,
more refined, of nobler natures than our fellows; thank God for it, and
enjoy it; but not shut ourselves up in it, and let no one come near
us; rather strive to draw others & raise them up to us. try to bring
others up to our Mark, rather than tread on them to keep our own heads up.
. 27.5.50 A.A.A.A. After all I am not quite sure that all this sermon reaches the

real root of the matter. There is certainly a great difference in the Grain of different organisations. Some are so much coarser that there can be no propriety or possibility of assimilating them

"New N.E. Farmer" I guess it was.
Now I think of it, is there a Boston Agricultural Newspaper regularly received at your place? Some time last Winter or Fall; seeing a New issue that pleased me & appeared just the thing for the Locale, I subscribed & ordered it sent to Milo. Haven't thought since to enquire whether it was received, and haven't heard it mentioned.

I take Semi Weekly Tribune, and the "Scientific American"

An Old Lady by name of Wells in Shelburne Mass. possessed a very old oldfashioned engraving of the Metcalf Coat of Arms.

Write to me immediately just when you will come & be here. If you will pass thro Boston perhaps I will send to you there some commissions to execute there for me

Wm A Stevens I guess has n't sent that Money ~~to~~ you or me either. I guess he is speculating with it. He has the reputation, is reported to the Directors, as the best managed Depot in Vt. & Mass.; is Wood Agent besides. Has Humphrey with him. Has gone into trade too. Gypsum, Lime & Flour. Cleared $10.00 on Gypsum week before last. What shall I do with my Money? Send it to you?

I receive regularly $75.00 per Mo. To be sure I have to pay horse expenses out of it which allowed the 15.00. So Pay Roll says only $60.00

[illegible]

Isaac
June 3 1849.
(Come & see me, with directions)

Dear Brother Joseph. I disagree with you entirely if you think the date of your letter, "June 2d, 1849" a proper one. You say you do not owe me a letter. Doubted. May 17th 1849, was sent to Post Office a long letter from me; whether it was directed to Milo or Bangor is more than I can now tell. Have you not received it? It was written only a day or two after the receipt of your previous letter; and as I now remember was remarkable especially for little else than an extremely peremptory expectation of your immediate arrival at this place = "Parkers" in Goffstown N.H. (where it is now June 3) I am extremely disappointed that you speak in your present letter of going back to Milo. You cannot have got my letter, I know. Do, Do Come, Do. Come now. It need not cost but two or three dollars to get here, and I will pay all your Expenses as long as you will stay with me, all Summer. (3 or 4 $)

You must come; I have set my heart upon it. I shall be homesick right away, if you don't come. Perhaps "throw up my commission", and come right home

As for your present position, prospects, prospective employments & situations, we will wait & talk that all over after you get here — in full.

As for the History of Europe you enquire for. I am sure I can tell you Nothing. If I could go into a good Library I could lay my hand upon the best thing extant in a very few moments, and perhaps tell something of its character; but all that matter is very much out of my line nowadays

Lest possibly you do receive my other letter I must repeat again somewhat of my former very prolix directions to you, about reaching this place immediately. You will be expected as soon as next week. The route is "Boston"; you probably know the way there best & cheapest, or the one you prefer as well as I do. At Boston take the Lowell R.R. and ticket through to Manchester. Tickets through, though you pass over three different R.Roads, Lowel, Nashua and Concord. If you want to come out here the same day by Stage, take the Morning train, Leave Boston I donot know when, 7 to 8½, Reach the N.H. City of Spindles, perhaps 10. at which time or soon after the Cars arrive, a Stage leaves either for Henniker or Hillsboro, bothe of which pass through this Goffstown, and by a place called "Parker's", before noon where can direct you to the "Engineer", or his head quarters at G. W. Parker's. Fare Boston to Manchester 1.13 I believe Manchester to Parker's .50. If you will give me due notice, I will arrange probably if you let me know the day & trip of your arrival at Manchester, to be there with my horse & Carriage for you

I will write no more, expecting to communicate by word of mouth very soon

Affectionately J. S. R.

Goffstown, N. H. June 24th 1849

Dear Brother Joseph

Your letter was duly received a few days since and I embrace the earliest opportunity to reply to it.
I had written to you and Lucy together soon after the receipt of a letter from you both at Hampden, but it seems you had not received it.
First you commence upon me on the Metaphysics vs. Mathematics, &c. Well, you know just so far as these Metaphysics are concerned, I dont dare to argue anything
You concede however that we may call them Material. But say you it is as practical to know the powers & properties of that material as of any other. Granted. but as an Engineer, it is entirely different powers & properties that I have to do with. My knowledge of Men is simply of so much physical power or ability; "so large a part of a horse power", with capacity of such & such motions & to use that power in such & such directions. And moreover that the exercise of that power is commanded by Money. Than this what more have I to do with Men?
Have you been reading Milton lately? Pray particularize somewhat upon the dependence of myself in particular, or Engineers in General upon any of your Metaphysics.
Quaint & Unique Phenomena; you say. What sort of Rhetoric is that?
I am extremely sorry of your decision not to visit me at present. I can hardly believe that travelling would not be beneficial to you. Travel by Easy Stages, so as not to induce much fatigue. You speak of several days continuous travel where will you find such. You do not think of going to Wisconsin do you? This place you must remember is hardly 15 hours from Bangor. Moreover, if you came here I would not ask

you to walk with me, but to ride, and seems to one that riding about must be beneficial to you if not pursued as business but pleasure

As I said before I am sorry, but if you won't come now why I suppose I must content to wait, and consider the expected visit postponed. for about Six Weeks only.

Metcalf Coat of Arms, Engraving (very antient) thereof possessed by an Old Lady of Shelburne Mass. Her Name I believe is Wells. St: is herself Old. I believe her Maiden Name was not Metcalf but that her Mother's was. Which Old Lady I suspect might have been the last heir of some branch of the Michael M. family, I believe I traced the genealogy around through some Gov. Huntington family that once was of Conn. round back to Dedham or Wrentham or somewhere.

For your portrayal I am very much obliged, just what I wanted. The Engraving of Old Mrs Wells I have not seen could not get it. I went over to Shelburne once but it was on a Stormy Sunday only that I was there, & I could not. If I had stayed in that region this season I should have tried it. I have heard it described by none capable. It has the three calves passant, Sable, & the Motto, I believe, the Crest I cannot say

As for Money Investment I know Nothing, but take it for granted that you know enough. I suppose there Certain Rail roads, Eastern, Worcester – Fitchburg, Lowell, Concord, Nashua, & &c. which pay not far from 10 per cent, & their Stocks are therefore over par. they are good property, & safe investments. I suppose though that if any one wished to Speculate in R.R. Stocks, it must be done in "Fancies", in those whose value is somewhat nominal.

or at least fluctuating. Buying a hundred thousand dolls of R.R. Stock at 42, and in six months or some other time selling it for 64 is I suppose what is called an "Operation" Some men have become extremely wealthy in this & such ways. By the Way S. F. Belknap, the Rail Road King of America, has just died. What an immense amount of Rail Road property he has had in his hands. I have heard it stated that he had received 20 000.00 on one Semi Annual Dividend of Stock on one R.R. the Fitchburgh. Dead, & Insolvent;; property enough in his hands to buy a kingdom perhaps.

Flour Speculation. You know best. If it is really as your figures would indicate, go into it all over. If you have confidence in the feasibility of the plan, you may take what money of mine is in your hands, and by the last of July I could send you $100.00 more, ~~probably~~ certainly $150.00 or, by 1st of Sept. if I have none but good fortune, perhaps 200.00

I have not far from $100.00 on hand; some wanted for current expenses however as I pay every thing as I go on, and Pay Roll is 45 days behind in all.

I do not know as I have got any thing to write

The N. H. State R.R Commissioners are just paying a visit to this same N. H. Central R.R. Mr Chase delivered the whole posse including two big White horses & Grand Carriage, over to me the other night and I spent yesterday & to-morrow in parading them about in my territory. I am a good deal pleased with the men too. They are gentlemen besides being talented & able men.

We have had the very extreme of Hot Weather here for a Week past. Thermometer 90 to 98 in shade 120 in sun. perfect boiling weather. Every thing dried right up. Grass burnt even to the roots.

By present appearances there will not be half a crop of grass the clover especially is drying clear into the earth. Some have even begun to cut it to save what there is. Showers have failed here though coming within a few miles of us.

Corn was very backward; but this extreme warm dry weather is sending it forward very rapidly.

Write all the news. &c. &c.

J. L. Metcalf

J. L. Metcalf
June 24, 1849.
Practical vs. metaphysical. Metcalf's sons. Flour purchase. Visit of N. H. R.R. Commissioners. Heat & drought.

West Goffstown, N. H. July 30. 1849

Dear Brother Joseph

Your letter of June 24th, 25th, lies before me, but not before that a certain concatenation of circumstances alluded to in yours relieved me from the duty of replying to it until I again hear from you. However, happening to feel like it just now, I will in it (as I am tired), while I have leisure, against some later day.

First the question you propose in correspondence; viz "The Contained angle ~~ex~~ between a right course of conduct and a wrong one?" This question is a remarkable illustration, both of your own ignorance of science; and also of the immense superiority of Mathematical over Metaphysical knowledge, as applied even to Ethical Science. Now the Question you propose might be in your way of looking at things a very difficult matter to solve, requiring I know not how many tough syllogisms & arguments of so many kinds. Applying Mathematics to it it becomes as plain as the nose on a Man's face; the demonstration is as beautiful and simple as the propositions or theorems of Euclid —— But I will have consideration for you, & not introduce any more Mathematics.

Those Quotations you make are very good and appropriate. Is that last one from Upham, I do not remember it readily, the quotation about Dreams &c. I expect I am of a very prosaic nature. I have never had any such experiences even in my dreams as you & Charles & Bro. Phil. tell of. ~~I believe I am of a very prosaic~~ Still I certainly have rather a remarkable belief in all such things. I am credulous; if not imaginative. That is quite an idea of Incredulity being only Credulity itself seen from a different point as it bows & nods assent to the usual & the expected.

Pronunciation. "Blucher", probably Blushay. If by general rules. Katsbach. Ch is the German sound. It is a sound which can not be expressed in English upon paper. It depends somewhat upon the vowel it follows. After a, o, & u, I believe it is one sound, & after e, i, & y, it is called a different one. After e, i, & y, it a sort of an aspiration like a hissing, or rather spitting of Cats. After a, did you ever hear a horse that had the heaves badly breathes with a very much loud noise after exertion. it is some like that. To pronounce Katsbach, after the first syllable Kats, begin to say bark, or perhaps better still to bark like a dog yourself, and then stop very suddenly & very gutturally. The sound is called (a guttural.

By the way there are one or two general directions of great use in attempting to pronounce words of any European language. They are not so much peculiarities in other languages as anamolies in the English Language. things wherein that differs from all others that I know of. A. E. I. Nobody knows where we got our English right to pronounce them, as we do.
The letter a in all other languages has an invariable sound like our "ah". Our long a sound, in other languages is attached only to the letter E. It is plain even in English that there is where it alone belongs. Our English long a & short E you will notice are the same sound.
Also the sound which we attach to the letter E. long E. belongs in other languages only to the letter i
The sound we give to the letter i is in other languages always and invariably attached to the dipthong ei.
Remembering these things, and also that other people always pronounce their consonants much more distinctly than

we are accustomed to, and one can pronounce tolerably most foreign words or names we meet with.

There is one curious thing in our New England Speech. One very common Yankee Sound, which is absolutely unknown to the English language. The Sound we, every body in N.E. Eastern N.E. at least, always give to the vowel in the common word Whole is a sound not found in any English word, a sound not known to any English Speech. I rather think it is at least as difficult to any English throat not a Yankee's as even the celebrated French U. It is really astonishing where that sound came from, or how we acquired the right or the power to make use of it.

July 15th, Your Letter of July 5th &c. came to hand three days since. You see I have already written not a little, not however that it is any thing worth sending.

Query. What do you mean by limited range of correspondence?

"Quaint & unique phenomena" were something you had observed about Anchor Ice. You had better not have mentioned your affect thereto. Antient is simply the old spelling of the word, always found in all old writers, and very quite appropriate in the connection in which I used it.

Your argument upon the dependence of Engineers upon Metaphysics would perhaps be thought defective by most Engineers. They might say that some proof was needed that the Engineer is subject to the laws of Natural & revealed Religion &c. It being generally considered that the said Engineer is bound by Nothing but "the Contract" and perhaps certain "Laws of Nature" — not your Metaphysical Laws &c. but certain Mathematical & physical Laws of Nature — Laws of Physics. To which of course his extremest deference is due, & strictly paid

As for the rest of your argument, it cannot be disputed; and it is equally plain, that "if the sky should fall, we could catch larks." If men should cease to be governed by money, engineers of course could cease to build railroads." Othello's occupation would be gone. The engineer as well as other men is governed by money. If there be any such thing as a Metaphysical engineer; perhaps he may be found in these days, like any other visionary theorist, sitting round on the hillsides planning an aqueduct here or a tunnel there; but I guess he would find no body even to drive stakes for him.

Foster Crowell, I am not acquainted with. [illegible] truth, I must say that [illegible] "Greely's Tribune".
[illegible] my brain?

I had a nice long letter from Sister Anne yesterday. I should think she was doing finely there, has a fine school and is prosperous in all things; and I guess enjoys herself finely. She wrote though that she spent Fourth of July in thinking of "Down East" &c.

Isaac.
July 12. 1841
[illegible]

# Joseph

I had made up my mind almost not to send the letter I had written, or to write any more such as you & I have been in the habit of writing. The fact is you are getting into bad habits; I have not realised it enough; but this thinking so much as you do is not right: to be sure I have not much to reproach myself with in the matter; but then I really fear that I am forming bad habits in that respect, even I. Cassius you remember was lean with thinking; and I am strongly inclined to believe that no one can think much & be comfortable, happy & healthy in the world as I am in the habit of being.

Anne says that you have simply overworked your brain, and your present disease is simply a sympathetic irritation of the spinal Column. I am inclined to think that she is about half right.
at any rate my brain would be overworked to think half as yours.
If that is the case the natural simple remedy is to think less.
Why not for a spell, be, & do like others. Lay aside almost intirely your books, your writing & your thinking. Be content to lay around in the Sun, or loaf around among folks or trees. and enjoy life. Return to Childhood & live by feeling instead of thinking. Even if you intend to make thinking your business, you will thus do more of it in your life. Even if you did not think now for a year or two, there would still be time enough & enough for you to do.
I am so sorry I could not have got you here this summer I would have trained you riding round with me. Live like an Italian instead of a German by feeling instead of by thinking

Isaac

(Return fm visit home. Directions for use of water treatment at home.)

Goffstown, Aug. 12. 1849

Dear Brother Jos.

Well, here I am again snugly established in my R.R. Office; and dull and disagreeable enough it seems after my visit there. It is moreover a very rainy day. It does pour down "nice". The ground is in a fair way to get soaked to the perfect establishment of Fall Fed.

I alone represented "Parkers" at Church to day and the whole audience was hardly worth mention except one very pretty girl that I never saw before.

I cannot quite yet tell you where my head quarters are to be, or whither to direct letters to me. I start tomorrow for this new region.

I write unto thee especially to day to reiterate & renew & extend some of my prescriptions for your health & recovery.

I am extremely anxious you know that you should make a fair trial of mere rest quiet freedom from Medecine & fatigue, and pure water. And I forgot entirely to insist especially upon one branch of the matter in which I want you to change or *enlarge* your present practice.

I am anxious that you should bathe thoroughly *three* times per diem instead of once.

My Prescription is Rise Early, and immediately Bathe thoroughly especially rubbing your back considerable, if not more

Joseph please write, and often & fully all about yourself &c.

Then again sometime in the middle of the day, retire to your room, with plenty of pure clean water, again, stripping entirely, bathe thoroughly, especially the Bath. then sleep two or three hours, and repeat the process of Bathing thoroughly, immediately before retiring for the night

Will you not now try this plan, and thoroughly. It is strange that I did not think and insist upon starting it while I was at home; but I find come to get away that I did hardly think of any thing I wanted to. Your present once a day washing is only a half way business.

Moreover as for these washings. do not suffer yourself to get fatigued. or in the least degree chilled. That is you need not be very long about it. and perhaps it is not best to have the water very cold; that is if you find it chills you, so there is not abundant reaction. For the rest do not fatigue over-exert, or tire yourself; spend your time variously; exercising as much & as variously as you feel does not injure you. and refrain as much as possible from all laborious reading study or thinking.

And Moreover I certainly advise you to try the wet sheet packing. I do not see why you cannot do it without difficulty. Just have a sheet wrung out in clean cold water; wrap closely around you, and cover up very warmly

the Water Cure folks do with a feather bed tick. I think that would be quite too warm for my use.

Will you not now do this as I direct

As for my journey, perhaps you want to know. Well we got safe to Bangor, after a hot day. Samuel was waiting for Lucy with horse & wagon. I stopped at the City with Eliah. Went to First Parish Prayer Meeting. Saw Lizzy Doe, & Eliah tried to persuade her to go to the Literary Society of which he spake at Milo. She, as was anticipated would have nothing to do with it; and I guess Eliah concluded so too, and did not go near it.

Thurs. morn. I walked down to Hampden. Rode down to Village to see Chum Baker of Hampden Academy. Dined at Mr. Crosby's, and up to Bangor with Lucy. She making Calls. I went up to A. Harlow's with her, &c. And up to the Seminary to see a great number of my old Cronies. One of my Classmates, John Cotton Smith is probably about to be settled over the Episcopal Church in Bangor. Half a doz. of them are married already; some practicing Law & some physic.

Friday on board the Boat, found Mr. & Mrs. Johns Gilles of Exeter, on their way to Mass. for a Month or two visit. Also Mrs J. P. Veazie on way to Topsham.

The Passage was an extremely rough one, almost every body was sick. I got asleep & slept through it all, without being sick; but perhaps I should have felt better if I had, it was so very rough it disarranged me, and when I eat & drank at N. Boston it made me vomit, and so I got over it. We did not reach Boston till Midnight or after. Adams House & the Morning Express Train to Manchester. Rain. Are last night

Dear Mother,

Can you see what my ideas are about Joseph, and his remedies. Do you not think it better for him. It is the substance of the Water Cure. Try it and not go away from home yet.

I do believe that he will soon recover, without medecines, or doctors; only give Nature a fair chance, which she certainly has not yet had. He has taken medecines enough to kill most any body.

Wash them (the poison Medecines) out with pure water.

Help encourage & interest his mind in this, and assist him in it. He ought to have greater conveniences for Bathing. And More Water. That little bowl of water is not enough; why not have a pail full of water in his room to wash in? Let it be pure water too; perhaps not quite so cold as it comes from the well; that is if it chills him; but still fresh not long standing. He better too, (as all who wish to preserve or regain health) be somewhat particular about his diet. Great attention to General health. State of bowels &c. &c. Purify the breath. use charcoal, and that tooth powder. Have the health perfect and Nature free to use all her resources to heal the weakness.

I hardly believe in showering, or too much cold any way, or any violent remedies; they have been tried enough. Mildness, Leave the Cure to Nature. She will do it well; only give her a fair chance.

Write to me frequently. All particulars &c.

Bradford N. H. Aug. 19. 1849

Dear Brother Joseph

You had better write to me if only in self defence; for if I do not hear from you I shall keep inflicting my letters upon you till you will find it less trouble to write yourself. I set out to write this letter on account of your not knowing where to direct letters to me, as I had not learned where my Post Office was to be when I wrote to you last, immediately upon my arrival at Goffstown: But on thinking over matters I come to the conclusion that a letter which I intended to send to Eliab & Lucy when I first arrived at Bradford or soon after, was by some strange mistake addressed [to] you instead of to Eliab. If that be the case, [the]re is little need of my writing to you at this time. If that letter did go to you I hope you sent it back to them as soon as possible.

I do not know as I have really any thing to write except that the Survey is commenced, and I guess we shall have a pretty tolerable party after ~~we~~ I get them fairly broken in which takes some little time. This is a great country, full of all Lakes & Ponds, and hemmed in by Mountains of all sizes, from old Kearsarge & Sunapee down. The abundant Mountain Brooks are full of Trout, and the Ponds of Pickerel &c. The Sportsmen talk of taking one & two hundred Brook trout per day.

This day I have hardly enjoyed quite so well as I like to enjoy the Sabbath. My only stopping place being no better than a little Rum Tavern. I was so vexed with my circumstances in certain particulars that it took away my appetite for my breakfast. I walked three miles or so to get to a Congregational Meeting, then got asleep in Meeting, and at Noon was so hungry that I was fain to walk back to the Tavern after some Dinner, thinking to attend Church in the Afternoon at a Baptist Meeting House near by; but come to find out there was no meeting there today: so I took to writing Letters.

Yesterday we were at work by the shores & coves of Bradford Pond, under a very steep Mountain which almost hangs over the Pond. There came up great Showers, and the way the Clouds hung on to the Top of that Mountain and poured down on our poor heads was Torrents.

One needed to hold on the rocks in order to Breathe, almost. Then to get out we had about an hour's walk over the rocky mountain side through the woods & rain.

Will not Sunapee Summit be some. I went up there the first day I was here. It is a steep ridge of rock running across the end of the Big Lake from one Mountain to the other. To be passed by the Rail Road with a Rock Tunnel or Rock Cut of 60 to 100 ft. for a long ways!

The Rain of a week since was tremendous in this Mountainous region, did much damage, made

a great Freshet &c. It is really astonishing what these raging Mountain torrents will do when they overflow in such cases, carry every thing before them. I am anxious to hear of the weather in Maine: If the Freshet was such there it must do Charles great injury to his crops. What a pity his haying was not done. Why if the Weather is similar there he could hardly save any more It rains here about every day. now it has once broke. Well. Write to me

I want to hear of all your health and feelings &c. &c

J. L.

1 Isaac
Aug 17, 1849

[illegible]
Aug 20

5

Charged

J. M. Metcalf
Milo
Maine

Isaac

Bradford. Sept. 2d 1849

Dear Brother, One or two of your letters have been received lately; not however until I thought I had waited an un-reasonable time after sending two or three to you. The first letter I received from you the other day via Goffstown. I suspect you must have pretty much worn out all your sleeves in writing! I can imagine you grinning over it all to your self now. Following out my directions with a vengeance, I should say! I suppose you spent thought, positive mental effort, enough in conjuring up that dream, or whatever you call it, to last a common man a year. Of course you can not expect me to puzzle my brains about it. The only thing "practical" I find about it is the extremely sapient advice never to go to bed without an intention of getting up again. Well, when I have leisure sometime, I will consider of it!

Is it a fact that it still remains dry weather Down East? Here we are having decidedly a wet time. There was a great rain here about the time I came back; causing a real freshet & considerable damage. Bradford Pond was suddenly three feet above summer level &c. Ever since then it has rained extremely easy here among the Mountains. There have been two or three very rainy days, and showers very frequent, some of them very powerful. We calculate to get pretty wet about every other day. These Mountain showers pour right straight down in torrents I tell you. We have some difficulty in preserving our instruments safe from injury by the showers.

I am glad to hear so good an account of you that you are so well following out my & other good Hydropathic directions. I really do not see why you cannot practice Hydropathy exactly as well at home as you could away at any "establishment". If however the Well has failed and you have no cold water, it is certainly an adverse circumstance. Would you know too how to treat a crisis? do they not have some such a thing? When under the influence of the Water all the poisons & corruptions of the system begin to burst out in the form of Boils &c.

I do not know whether you fully understand my view of your case, disease, & proper remedies. It is of this sort – The Lameness itself being simply an injury to the Spine, can be cured or benefitted by no active "remedies" or "treatment" whatever. It required simply rest, quiet, entire freedom from excitation of the mental & physical system; merely giving Nature & the Nerves an opportunity to rest & help themselves you would probably have got over it in a month or two at most. But unfortunately an exactly opposite course was taken. The most violent remedies were used, the system was loaded & clogged with poisons &c. which it is absolutely necessary to wash & soak out by the Water Cure before Nature can have any chance with the original ailment. Also in as far as your former habits of Mind & body were injurious to the System must the System be renovated by water

Your Case is most essentially different from that of one whose System, Nerves, & Spinal energies were worn out & destroyed by gluttony, dissipation, and debauchery. For such an one the disease & decay must be arrested, if at all by the Doctors & their most violent remedies. Yours as an injury required simply a chance for Nature to get over the injury. Her recuperative energies, if not continually thwarted are great and ever sufficient.

Your object then in a course of treatment is simply to recover from the effects of what you by bad remedies have done. Of course the Water Cure is the thing. Over & above its acknowledged regenerative properties, it has an advantage possessed by no other treatments or medecines: it has no injurious effect: it leaves Nature constantly free to go on with her cure.

What sort of a chap is Chas. H. Metcalf? Seems to me I should like to see him, Wish I could have been at home at Milo at time of his visit

I guess the botanical difficulty is not great. My Books on that subject are not present; but I believe the plant in question the Glycine Apios, perhaps of Bigelow; but the Apios, monoica perhaps of Gray, & other Botanists. perhaps. Amphicarpa Monoica of Nuttall.

I expect it would be one of the best things ever happened to Milo if N. Carver, N. Dow & J. Macomber, could be "underpinned up to the eaves" at West Thomaston for a term of years: would it not?

As for myself I do not know as I have any thing special to write about myself
This continues to be a great country. My brains are hugely vexed, and my mightiest energies physical & intellectual daily & most severely taxed in twisting Rail Roads in to it. I tell Everett & Simonds that I am more & more convinced of the great foolishness of those in authority in sending so young & inexperienced Engineers into so difficult a country. However I find that I learn something every day and take courage.
I appear to be left entirely to my own destruction or go ahead. Mr Chase, our Chief Engineer, has not even been near us since the very day we commenced here.
My health is as usual perfect. Though it is getting perhaps more & more sickly around every where. Two of my posse are sick, one with a Typhoid Fever, another with Bowel complaint
Tomorrow I move my head Quarters probably for a few days to the Lake Village in Newbury N.H. and then to Newport, which is quite a fine town, shire town, & the residence of the distinguished Lawyer, Ralph Metcalf formerly N.H. Sec. of State &c.
By the way I believe his Law Partner bears the same name as Chas. H. Metcalf's Daguerrian Partner. Goddard.
My friend Mrs. Amos Piper of Northfield Mass, formerly of Guilford Maine, died recently.

This has been written by J. S. Metcalf

Newport. N.H. Isaac.

Newport, N.H. Sept 23. 1849

Dear Brother Joseph

Your letter of the 12th, 18th inst, was duly received here upon the 21st; and not liking to be as much behind in such matters as are some of my correspondents I take this early opportunity to reply to it, or at least commence. First, please excuse both the length & the spottedness of this sheet, the first resulting from the growing shortness of my "stores", and the second from the too great proximity of my writing table to the scene of my usual morning ablutions.

You advise me to scrape acquaintance with the Hon Ralph. M. Well, He scraped the acquaintance of me. remarking on first introduction that he knew by the name that I was a fine fellow: invited me to dinner, to succatash to said; and assured me that he had plenty of house room & always a spare plate: He is a fine old fellow, weighs some 250, or 300 lbs. has an extremely pretty young wife, & is wealthy. He is a Massachusetts Metcalf. descendant of the renowned Michael; said he recently had his parentage & thoroughly inquired into by letter, from Luther Metcalf, I believe it was. There are also various other Metcalfs in this vicinity, but not as far as known in any wise related to the aforesaid Ralph. I have not yet met with any of them, though Saturday I was running line through a large Wood Lot one of the finest I ever saw, belonging to a certain old Silas Metcalf, commonly as I hear called "Horse face" or "Old Horse face" from the remarkable length of his physiognomy. I shall see him if I get a chance.

How comes Cholera to prevail thus at Bangor

I have seen it stated in Newspapers that more than one fourth of the inhabitants of Bangor have left the City. What has become of Walter Brown, he was almost frightened out of his witts when I was there.

"Senior" on Metaphysics.

Can he bring forward any tolerable reason or apology for thus attempting to resuscitate the carcass? Why not let the Dead bury their dead; and the "Has been," take care of the "Fuit"?

Your question respecting Characters in Mrs. J's "Characteristics of Women", or in Shakespeare must necessarily wait for an answer until I am out of this Surveying Pickle, and have opportunity of again Reviewing, & ~~Theo~~ relating.

Speaking of Hydraulic Machines, have you seen & Read the celebrated work entitled "Ewbanks Hydraulics"? Ewbank, present Commissioner of Patents in room of Hon: Edward Burke of Newport N.H. where his remarkably beautiful Wife now lives in the prettiest of houses. He is now Editor of the Washington Union you know. I own Hydraulics, You can have it if you like

Am inclined to agree with you that Perpetual Motion is most like to be achieved in that way Hydraulic Ram? Immense power of the Hydro Static press applied to feed itself &c.

I agree with you upon the prospects of Maine as a great Manufacturing State — if they would only Build Rail Roads.

How did you do "Crack Sam"?

There is a great rule, something of it in Algebras, more fully develloped in Differential Calculus. "Maxima & Minima". Some strange & curious things work out oddly Easy by it.

Perhaps I may do some good morally even as an Engineer. I am pretty strict about the Character & behavior of my men.
I had a Young Man in the Party, Richard H. Sylvester of Charlestown N.H. a Yale College Student; its long vacation time there now two months, though as I since learn he had been Suspended or something for some Scrape. Of one of the first families in N.H. Father Cheif Clerk of a Department at Wash, lately removed, connected with the Woodbury's, Jarvis, and first families in the State; a very pleasant and gentlemanly young fellow. I liked him much. Well, Monday last, to begin with we got pretty wete wading Sugar River a few; in the P.M. it rained so we did not go out. I was busy repairing an Instrument. To my extreme surprise, for he was highly recommended to me, Young Sylvester came in to the Tea Table essentially Drunk.
The next morning, I called upon him, talked to him the best I knew, "like a father", and discharged him! I did it kindly, but I have not the slightest doubt that the leaving the Engineering Party in disgrace affected him more than it would to be expelled from College two or three times. I really dont believe he will ever drink again.
I have had a letter from him since. One of the humblest best letters I ever saw.
It may save him. I know he thought very highly of me.

Sincerely & Affectionately

J. L. Olmstead

The Congregational Church in this Newport is one of the very tal... sort of old fashioned, cost 10.000.00 finished highly. The Society has been very large & wealthy; lately by quarrells with their Minister is a little reduced. The Minister, Rev. John Woods is one of the real old fashioned sort, preached here nearly or quite 30 years. His Sermons are an hour long regularly! think of that in these days! Today he preached @ funeral Sermon, they said an hour and a half long! I rather guess they stretched it a bit though. Just about the time folks got their nap fairly through & began to wake up, he had a terrible hit on drowsiness. It was awful long Sermon. I never heard the like. He is though decidedly an able man, must have been quite so in his younger days. His sermons are well put together & really worth paying attention to if they are so long.

We leave Newport tomorrow probably. Hope to finish the survey in the week or soon after. Spend the week at Claremont I suspect. and then return to Goffstown or Manchester. Everett insists upon my going to Winsor, to see his folks before I return at any rate. After this week direct to me at ~~Goffstown~~ better perhaps at the "Oil Mill Village" which with the new Postmaster is getting more convenient to Parkers.

Why does not Mother write?
Lucy too is by no means prompt.
And Eliab, what shall I say of him. No word from him since I was at Bangor!

Parker's. Oct. 15. 49. Joseph, Your Letter of Oct. 3–8, Mailed Oct. 11 is just this day received, the very day when you wished an answer returned to Milo, which of course you will not get. Mr Collamer's Mails you know have the reputation of being awful contrary: this is especially the case undoubtedly in N. H. where the people generally excell greatly naturally in contrariety and all manner of ugliness. This Old Granite State you know is considered a "good place to move from". Well it is a habit they have of all the decent ones moving off, those left at home are not much boasting of, any more than their soil, wherein the Vermonter said the hard pan came up to the second rail of the fences.

In justice I ought however to add that west of the mountains there seems to be quite an improvement in the stock; so much better are they that I was quite struck with the contrast in coming back from my Journey.

I do not think you had better go to a Water Cure Establishment. I think you can obtain all the advantages in your case to be derived from the treatment, and without the risk trouble & danger. The great thing for your cure is undoubtedly a state of extreme rest perfect quiet and without doubt much time. Fatigue or accident in travelling to a Water Cure Establishment might put you back a whole year of the best treatment. Your present symptoms I should judge extremely favorable, the most so possible. What is plainer than that the Sitz bad &c. is driving the disease out of your Spine, naturally occasioning a temporary weakness in leg & arm?

The humor there can be no doubt about; it is the invariable favorable symptom. It is just the benefit I told you to expect from the Water Cure driving off of the ill effect of poisonous medecines &c.
Let me repeat my advice not to go away to Water Cure Establishment. Remain quiet at home; avoid fatigue & excitement; exercise to be sure moderately without fatiguing yourself persevere in the gentle Water Cure, not with Water so cold or long continued at once time as to be painful or fatiguing. "Easy blows &c" Avoid fatigue excitement, pain, uneasiness &c.

You speak of my coming home; which is extremely uncertain. I am now very busy preparing a "Report, Plan Profile & Estimates of the Recent Survey to be published; the thing I am Coming: it will be as soon as I can. I may however, if the Company don't succeed in raising funds to go on with the Road to Vermont next year, attend some to Laying track finish up my business here and leave the Road this fall or Early Winter.
I could another good place now I expect. if the company fail in Mid Winter, it might be difficult to obtain employment then.
Joseph perhaps you don't exercise your hands arms, gentle exercise enough.

First page see Acct of Silas Horse Head Metcalf please examine into the geneology thereof

Paper containing Obituary of my friend & Classmate John Dennys Kilby, by Jos. C. Pickard was duly received, am much obliged therefor.

Your inquiry about Characteristics of Homer I have no time to enquire just now, will try however sometime. Will just hazard the idea "Cordelia" please state your ideas &c. on the topic, and then argufy it. A certain peculiar consciousness of merit curiously combined with a strange distrust of it, a dread of ~~telling any~~ telling of it perhaps, is a most marked characteristic a family I know of.

Hydraulic Ram you ought to see. It is a very valuable machine. A fall of a few feet in a little brook can send constant supply of up most any where &c.

Oct 15 1849
Isaac

Samuel Metcalf moved from Franklin or Framingham in Massachusetts in 1787. and settled in Croydon N. H.
He was one of seven brothers, the youngest of whom was Peletiah, supposed to be the one "who settled in Royalston, Mass."
He had also five sisters. Said Samuel Metcalf had three sons, one of whom moved into the adjoining town of Newport. His posterity are all in the vicinity, Croydon Claremont, Newport, Cornish. except one who is an Episcopal Clergyman in New York. Obed, Samuel, Silas &c. are names common among them.

This information is derived from Silas Metcalf, a Grand son of said Samuel Metcalf, who lives in the North part of Newport N.H. Said Silas Metcalf has a Nickname of "Horse Head" or "Horseface", from the really extraordinary length of his face & head. I never saw his equal in this respect. His face is extremely long, and his head very high above it. He says he varies a good deal from his relatives who are mostly rather thick set, and round featured.
This Silas Metcalf, "Old Horsehead", is a man very well reported; of good property, apparently intelligent and intellectual, Selectman, Representative &c.
"Every One Speaks well of him". I judge him to be a Baptist. I saw there more books & Newspapers than is common in Farmer's houses.

I dined at his house, on Survey. Sept. 24. 1849

J. G. Metcalf

Goffstown, Nov. 7th. 1849

Dear Brother

So it seems you are at Waterford Water Cure Establishment, in spite of my remonstrance & advice, or as you say in absolute defiance of my authority. Well there are limits to all human authority, and mine I fear does not extend over the mountains when I am not there. I did not believe, when you wrote that you were going the the Water Cure. that you were so much in earnest that Mother would not persuade you out of it. and I was consequently considerably surprised on reaching home last night to find a letter postmarked "Waterford".

Well, I am glad to hear you are there, and so pleasantly situated. I presume you will enjoy yourself finely, and be benefitted, though my theory, which I wrote you I believe, is somewhat different from the full belief of a Water Cure Cure in your case. I believe in Water Cure assuredly, but proposed in your case only a gentle use of it, with quiet. this having I think likely you have improved for a few months past; and I should fear that a very vigorous course of Water Cure processes might injure you, but that of course your physicians will know if it does.

One good thing at any rate I see you are gaining "knowledge of the world". "Rocks & Hard pan" what an unsophisticated youth you are! Did you ever hear of the such States as Mass. & N.H.? Until you have seen some place or other, pray do not talk about Rocks & Hard Pan in Maine.

tha here in N. H. it is justly considered matter of congrat-
ulation both to Railroads & to farmers where it can be
found that the Rocks are dirty. Where they are not in some
degree so the ground is worth little for tillage, and is com-
monly pastured!

You wish I could get a situation in the A. & St. L. R.R. Co do I;
and I have somewhat regretted since that I did not at least
try there last Spring before accepting a situation where I
now am. Still, it would probably have been almost or
quite impossible to have put me in any situation where I could
learn or get ahead faster, get more experience than I have
this season.

You propose for me a "short jaunt" in preference to going
home. Well I get such occasionally; and am more like to
get more, than to get the opportunity to go home.

Monday last I went to Boston, & came back the
next day. Friday I went up to Bradford 25 or 30 miles the
other way. This last was however the most profitable "jaunt"
I being retained as Witness or Counsel by one of the parties to
a controversy at a great hearing to decide Location of Depot
on the Concord & Claremont R.R. Having lately made extensive
Surveys in that region I happened to be acquainted with the
Levels &c. of that vicinity. My expenses &c. were all
paid, and an additional fee of a V which I suppose might
just as well have been an X or two if I had thought best
to demand it. However, it did not hurt me, & I get
the usual pay for my time on N. H. C. R.R. all the time.

If I can get away I shall like much to go to Waterford,
on divers accounts.

Cordelia was the favorite daughter of Old "King Lear" &c.
Read about it, & if you choose "argufy" it. of course you cannot
expect me to do it until you give me somewhat to argufy
against. You enquire what I mean by family. Ans.
those of the kith & kin with whom I am acquainted, which
to be sure is not much apart from our own family.
I did not get sufficiently acquainted with Old Horse Head
to decide fairly upon his case.
Where does this old "gone to seed" Dr. Potts Metcalf
sitting? I know how he looks and want to
see him.
Do you know any thing of the Character of young Edwin
P. Snow? Does he behave himself?
The fishes & other aqueous denizens must be very
grateful to you for consenting to let Jack Pond remain
where it is. At least they ought to.
Is it a fact that Sunapee can be seen from your Mountain?
if so when you get so as to walk 20 or 30 miles without
fatigue please ascend it for my sake. Do not do
it though when the snow is deep lest you share
the fate of poor Strickland.
Farrar, wasn't he once a Proffessor at Waterville, was he
not. Has he been an Editor? I think when I was
in College he distinguished himself by his ... at ...
Athenean Anniversaries.
Dr. Deane is the formerly of Bangor, is it not? Had a sort
notoriety from Magnetism Mesmerism or something of the kind
had he not. Did that inspire him. By the way is there such a son
of his as Hen Deane, formerly a school Mate of mine?
Did a "Bangor Museum" originate with the Deanes?

I am extremely glad on your account that you have the society of Mr Dole. I have formed a very high opinion of him. though you know I have hardly seen him.

You are reading Wayland & listening to somebody's. Mr W's edition of Prest Sheldon's criticisms thereon. Please write to me thereof. I am probably more interested in Wayland than in most of your Metaphysics.

You enquire if the N. H. C. R. R. Stock is not one to be bought to advantage. Ans. NO.

It is not yet time. Its stock is not yet in the market. It will neccessarry be low before it is high.

The Stock is taken up only in small quantities and little of that paid fully for; except that in the hands of Contractors &c and they are pledged by Contract not to sell below par for one year. Rail Road Stocks generally are very low. great Speculations are made in the Fancies. The Norfolk County R. R. Stock has been played strangely with. The Co has failed, Stock clear down.

An association of 'Bulls' among the Brokers have recently made a 'Corner' and run the stock up almost to a trifle. Perhaps they will make a great deal, perhaps they will bole their own fingers. Are you acquainted with the technical terms?

N. H. C. R. R. probably now owe me some $ 300.00 If I had money I think if I could get hold of it I should be tempted to invest in Vt. & Mass. R. R. Stock.

I received a letter from Ezekiel yesterday, last night. I do not know as I have any thing special to write more I want you to write to me again immediately particularly all about your self place circumstances & conditi

Nov. 11 1849.

Isaac

Goffstown N.H. Nov. 11. 1847

Brother Joseph

I do not know as I have any thing to say to make it worth the while either to me or thee to write a letter unto thee at this time. Yet I am inclined thereunto now.

Your last letter, with Prospectus of the Waterford Water Cure Establishment came duly to hand some time lately, perhaps Thursday last.

I notice the name of one of the Signers to that certificate, "O'Neil W. Robinson" which name is indorsed by you as "High Sheriff". High Sheriff of Oxford! Is it possible that it is the same O'Neil W. Robinson of Waterford whom I knew in College, Class of 1845, an immense big fat lazy fellow, strong as oxen. Perhaps it is not the same; and if so, no matter.

Here Water Cure is being very vigorously applied to various difficult "cases" of Rail Roading and such like processes, at about the present time. Baths of various kinds are unremittingly "exhibited". No sunshine for 160 hours. Vehement pouring rain for nearly 48 hours in succession. Rivers almost unprecedentedly elevated. Some of the "oldest inhabitants" say for 30 years, some "acknowledge" on 25. At any rate the sojourners call it large. The "City" commonly so call'd, where the Post Office is named G. Mill Village is one mile above here. Just above G.M.V. the Piscataquog

River. East Branch I found yesterday divided into three streams; one followed the old Channel; one leaving the old Channel burst across the highway and flowed straight down through the Swamp Land back of the Village coming out to the River again half a mile below; the third followed straight down the highway through the Main Street of the Village between the two rows of houses. I became the most thoroughly and experimentally acquainted with this latter stream, which was from one to two feet deep, with a very rapid current, but so obstructed by floating logs & various lumber, that my poor horse Brokie found much trouble in getting along.
Please acquaint me whether this Mighty rain and great Freshet extendeth unto the region of Jack Pond & Tirzym Mountain.
Your genealogical paper duly received and thankfully appreciated. Can there be found no way of bring[ing] to bear some nearer relationship with Old Horse Head? Certainly his looks approve him. He said though that he little resembled his immediate relatives. It must be a remarkable instance of "Breeding back". I think that is the technical term among Breeders.
My visiting home this Fall is extremely uncertain. I am afraid it grows more & more so as the time wears away. I want much much to, and much to see you. I have thought some of going on to Waterford, if I could go no farther. Perhaps if you could write just when you want to leave there, I might

come on to Waterford and accompany you to Portland, and Elijah meet you there.

My [illegible] that I do really want to see that [illegible]. It would be good for me. And just as far as I can go by R.R. is but a short journey for me you know. Yet I could not promise long before hand.

You are promoted to the Douche. My theory would decidedly favor the Sitz Bad in your case in preference to the Douche: but perhaps your folks know best.

Speaking of [illegible] Character of Women in Shakspeare you mentioned Desdemona. Desdemona is a beautiful almost perfect character of pure feeling. A character which lives & feels, but not thinks: at least, thinking is scarcely an attribute necessary to our perception of her. On the Contrary Mrs [illegible] to whom you refer is certainly in some measure a character of intellect. At least we cannot in considering her lose sight so entirely of intellect as we can in Desd.

Did you ever hear preach Rev Mr Clark agent of the A.B.C.F.M.? What think you of him? He preached here today.

Mon. Morn. If I do not send this letter soon no knowing when

Business presses

Aff [illegible]

Isaac
Nov. 12 1849.

paid

PAID

5

J. M. Metcalf Esq
Waterford W. C. Vt.
Maine

Joseph! Joseph! "The Stars & the Earth"! Have you seen the little thing? If not, do. I cannot now send it to you but I will tell you some of it.

Light is one & one quarter seconds coming from the Moon to us, Eight minutes from the Sun, two hours from Uranus; three years from the Star α Centaurus, nine years from Vega, one hundred years from a Star of the Sixth Magnitude, four thousand from one of the twelfth &c. Reverse it: the light from the earth reaches any one of these places in an equal portion of time. Now suppose an eye with unlimited power of vision at any one of these places. It sees not on this earth that now going on, but that going on just so long before as agrees with the distance. Now consider that unlimited vision with unlimited power of motion. Consider it as moving from the Star of the twelfth Magnitude to our Sun in one hour. It sees in one hour every event of four thousand years from Abraham tending his flocks, to the cannon balls on the last battle field of Europe: Or consider that motion in one second. Now understand how a thousand years are with God as one day! Do you get hold of this? Just think of it! What an idea it commences with! The pictures of all earthly events, indestructible incorruptible, thus to all Eternity moving off, 213000 Miles per second. There is then no such thing as time. God is Omnipresent. The duration of time really unnecessary for occurrence of events. The true, great history, not of this World only, but of all Worlds of the Universe; Consider it Expended into Space.

Another idea. Consider an organ of vision so formed that all rays of light enter it parallel! The smallest blade of grass on the most distant Star seen by it as distinct

The Author of "~~the~~ Stars & the Earth", (it is an English book, and as I judge some three or four years old;) he sums up with the conclusion, ^established by proof^ that 'Time & Space are not really actual necessary existences. They are simply our finite "modes of observation", the methods by which finite beings only ~~see~~ the perceive the Universe. Time is not necessary. the Events of thousands of years may be compressed into a second, compressed infinitely. In fact the second is exactly as long as the thousand years compared with "Eternity." Space is not necessary. The whole universe may be reduced to a point infinitely small, and all its parts remain ~~equally~~ as perfect. That point too is exactly as large as all the Universe of Worlds we can conceive of when compared with "Space".'
Well! it is! Get the Book and read it.
I believe it costs only $0.125, ninepence.

Nov. 25th. Why do you not write? Seems to me it is a good long while since I have heard from you, or any indeed of our folks. I am getting anxious to hear of the success & progress of the Water Cure in Waterford, &c. &c. which I am constantly expecting to find in your letters. I have been somewhat hoping to get away from this place about Thanksgiving time. Even if I could not get time to go down East, I might go to Massachusetts for 24 or 36 hours: but the Thanksgiving Week; that is out of N.H. comes just when I am especially confined to my place by duties of Track laying in my own immediate vicinity: so that it is doubtful if I can at all stir away: Even if I had any money.

Nov. 27. Your excellent letter received on yesterday to my especial gratification; and also one from Chatfield. Eliab I do not hear from at all, not Lucy very often lately, nor from Ann for a very long time.

Are you not a little too severe upon me on the subject of Old Oxford, & its prettiness & handsomeness? One would think from your remarks that I knew nothing at all of said Oxford; never lived there, or even travelled there. Have n't I been in & been acquainted in about every County in Maine? and am I not better acquainted in Oxford than in any County except Piscataquis? But — I have been in N.H. too.

Tom Hubbard I probably at first confounded with Phinehas Barnes. I now remember him more distinctly. It appears to me though I did not have a very great opinion of him. He is not a great man like his class mate Peleg Whitman Chandler, either intellectually or physically, but unless you have lost weight some he must be rather stout for a little fellow. By the way did you ever hear the names of those Chandlers of Boston P. W. & T. P.? Pelly nog & Tadpole! They are first class men.

Vt. & Mass. R.R. stock par is $100.00 per share. New stock has however been issued at 75. & some at 50.00 The Road is a great one, an expensive one: but it is completed, thoroughly made & finished, and well furnished. I cannot yet believe that it will not be eventually good property; say 75. certainly at 50. If the road is ever built across the Mountains to N.H. Vt. & Mass. stock would be above par.

I have supposed however there was very little of it really in market or to be bought. Few of the original County stockholders would probably sell for 30. or even 60. The sales may be among brokers & speculators, trying to crowd the stock down & get it cheap.

Have not heard from Samuel, or his Flour purchase. Do you really believe that Flour is a good & safe article to buy & store? — Risky —

As for yourself. How long or how much do you intend or ... to stay at Waterford? You say now that it can not be that you are improving. When you wrote before you thought you were somewhat. One thing now I think of it, ... want to reiterate my previously expressed opinion that ... Douche Bath is not the thing for you, but ... actly the contrary. It is by the most gentle treat... ment that you are to be benefitted. I presume ... ~~that~~ the Douche has injured you perhaps.

It is rather my opinion from all I can guess that I do ... think extremely highly of your place at Waterford. Is ... not rather inconvenient & unpleasant, accommodations &c. rather inferior; even more so than the price? Moreover I want to know whether you could not pursue the proper gentle course of Water Cure Treatment best adapted to your case, as well, as profitably, more pleasantly, and also at less expense at Philo or Hampden. Consider your extra prices where you now are would perhaps procure ... improvements & accommodations ~~those~~ better perhaps than some of those where you now are.

I express my belief, that if your Dr. understands your case fully, he will order no more Douch, but gentle treatment. ~~How profitable is it for them to have you continue at Waterford? & how much ... have you in them?~~ Sign...

Are you aware that a weakness in your limbs is a bad ...

It is extremely doubtful whether I am able to leave here this week or very soon. We are in the midst of Track Laying now.

d .. c
or le
tho Tues. Eve. 27th Well, I do not know as I have anything
f it. more to write at present, — except perhaps to ask you
that write as soon as possible. In fact I hardly know why
but I'm writing at this time of night, except that I could not
le probably sleep if I went to bed. I have been in company
tonight, something quite unusual with me. I have never
been in more than one or two houses in Goffstown.
. to the place a mile or two from here, where I have been frequently
requested to call, but have not; one of the sons, a graduate of
Dartmouth, (there are a large family of sons & daughters)
I am pretty well acquainted with; and have often promised
to call upon him. Tonight I was staking out a Depot
by Moonlight, — what a glorious "Moony" evening — & received
a special request to go up, & did. I found two or three there
beside the family; among the rest a Miss L. from the
other part of the town, whom I have seen once or twice,
really one of the most splendidly beautiful Girls
I ever saw. What a strange fascination there is in
Beauty. It is enough to make a fool of even a pretty
wise man; especially when combined with moonlight.
It is rather lucky for me not to be much acquainted with so
handsome a girl as Miss L. Half an hour longer & I should
not have slept tonight. I fear I shall dream as it is.
I suppose they have got that East Room &c. pretty much finished off
at Mr. ... Do you think of spending the Winter there, or at Hampden or
to stay at Waterford? I had a letter from Joseph Stevens
today: very anxious to have me come there to Thanksgiving

and to hear about your health. He seems to be getting along first rate; says he is "Superintendent" of the "Branch" has about all care of it now. I must go round there when I can get a chance a day or two.

I shall probably be at leisure by & by; We shall soon get through here if they do not succeed in raising money to finish the road farther. I hope when I get done work they will be able to raise four or five hundred dollars to pay me off.

I dread being out of business though

Dave.
Nov 27, 1849

Isaac

Goffstown, N.H. Dec. 20. 1849

Dear Brother

Your letter of 12.-19 inst was received just now; and now, while not having yet arisen from its perusal, will I commence a reply thereunto. I was extra glad to get your letter today; I had been much wanting it for some time. I always had a very sharp appetite for your letters; and now that you are away from home and folks, and not well, besides, I grow terrible fretted & anxious if I do not hear from you frequently. So much so that I can hardly keep from starting right off to go and see you for myself. At any rate you may expect to see me there sometime. I want to go over that Atlantic & St Lawrence Rail Way. Besides there is some prospect that I may be out of business here before a great while, if they do not soon succeed in raising money to push the Road forward, and then I may have nothing to do but poking about to see the folks you see.

Hardly any thing in your letter affects me so much as your lecture upon my indolence, & lack of ambition. I know it! I know it! I have long known it! It troubled me dreadfully in College. I fear it can never be overcome, if indeed it does not grow upon me. It is partly on account of that that I chose my present employment. Physical exercise is a pleasure to me, and I am always industrious in it: but my mind is — I am ashamed to say it — Lazy: it will work bravely — when compelled to — but without absolute necessity it is almost impossible to make it. The "Spur" somehow fails to affect it. I am afraid it is not "the clear Spirit."

This Letter may not be so much as yours, but I have not probably so much leisure and if you will write soon & often I gladly will. Write certainly when Dr. M.'s decision is communicated

In fact I have almost succeeded in convincing myself that is is not possible for one person to do every thing, that it was not best to have too many irons in the fire; and that an Engineer had better be content to give up the Languages, and confine him self to Mathematics, and the really immense amount & variety of subjects more or less intimately connected with his profession.

By the way, what sort of an effect upon a person of such unfortunate disposition, do you suppose that "Getting Married" would have? Would that be likely to furnish any kind of an incitement or spur to exertion which it seems that Ambition fails to do? Does it not sometimes have that effect upon some? Would there be any hope of it in my unfortunate case?

As far as your record of your employments goes, I should think you might be pretty comfortably employed, if you like also to write letters, it does not hurt you, and you do enough of it.

"Vestiges of the Natural History of Creation" "Sequel" thereto &c. &c. I have read and was of course much interested therein. to be sure I do not like it, that is its intention, its morale. It is the deepest & strongest, best disguised, & therefore most dangerous scheme of infidelity, or rather of Atheism, that was ever invented by man. Lay it bare of its magnificent envelope of science & genius, and it is the boldest and most specious attempt to destroy the very idea of a Creator God, that was ever imagined. "Imagination & Fancy" is pretty. Do you not like "Oliver Twist"? I do very much indeed.

Back Gammon I do not care much for, am less interested in it than almost any one else. With whom do you play? Miss Merrill? With Miss Merrill I was not acquainted; as indeed I was not with any one in Brunswick. I became acquainted in Topsham, not in Brunswick my last year in College. But then

I knew very well that there were such family. Her Brother I suppose, Leonard Merrill, class of '42. I very well know, Lawyer in Brunswick, good fellow. One of the honorary's of our particular secret Society ΔKE., of course a particular friend, & sworn brother of mine.
You say "People that can talk are scarce". True I suppose. Can you talk? I can not. but I wish much that I could.
As for Miss Little, daughter of Dr Little of Goffstown Centre, I am quite sorry that you can not see her. I am happy to inform you that I am absolutely proof against all dangers from such sources.
I am quite flattered to hear that Dr Munde's opinion upon G's proper course of treatment coincides so nearly with mine. Do you not believe that I should have made a good Physician? But one thing certainly prevented: My lack of faith; deficient veneration and marvellousness; and perhaps too much conscientiousness to practice what I did not fully believe. Perhaps if I had then been acquainted with Water Cure, I might have been.
Your hurt on the head, I supposed at first you referred to the fall on back of head on Doorstone, which occasioned sore & partial baldness. That was many years. I should think it was the winter when Charles went to Massachusetts, and brought back Aunt Esther, then taught school in Kirkland. I cannot tell what year. The Log Rolling scrape, I should think was much subsequent; perhaps 1840 or since, but it seems to have no associations to recall the time to my mind; though the incident is as fresh as yesterday in my memory. Perhaps Charles, or some records at Mill could show when that peice at Upper end of the Intervale was cleared up. Was it during the period of the "Farm Journal"?

I went to Lowell one day last week, have been wanting to go there ever since I have been here, stayed over night. I liked some of the folks pretty well especially the children Cousin Sarah, Mrs Hunt has some pretty ones. But I was most pleased with that that little cousin Charles whom I have never seen before. I really fell in love with the little fellow. but I expect they will kill him to death with Music &c.

Uncle Enoch is doing nothing I judge; living upon his fat in an up stairs back. Mr Hunt is a smart money making man I guess, good sort of a man. Isaac N. is full of Music, gives lessons in all the Public Schools of the City, 22 per week. Private and Public classes & lessons to the extent of his whole time or more: and I guess has got a good wife.

You speak of Stars & Earth, its ideas as of not much value: practical value, I suppose. If you mean that they will not produce much dollars & cents; very well; but are they not worth some thing as a sort of Boot tree to the mind, helping to expand it to that greatness which you say is its own exceeding great reward?

I have since not a great while received a letter from Anne and answered it, the same for Lucy & Samuel. Mother & especially Eliab I have not heard from for some time. Anne thinks she will not retain her present situation after the two years is out, next August I suppose.

You ask who were my friends & acquaintances in Turner All the folks 3 three or four years since especially in the South and East parts of the town. Talbots, Careys, Bradfords Brays, Whitmans &c. &c. &c. &c. North & West I knew not so much

I am a little afraid of Samuel's Flour Speculation.

As for your remaining at Waterford, if Dr. Munde comes there I advise you by all means to stay, stay, if he does not, perhaps you had better get what advice you can of him as to future treatment and go home, establish yourself at Milo or at Hampden & get well as steadily as you can, or go to Brattleboro. the Dr Munde I have heard of. The item of expense which you refer to is hardly worth minding much. What sort of Word is Hydrotherapy?

Write to me immediately on decision of Munde Dr. to go or not to Waterford.

Isaac, Goffstown N. H.
Jan. 7 1850

Goffstown N. H. Jan 7 1850

Dear Brother Joseph

By some strange negligence or mistake of ... or some of his subordinates, your letter which was mailed near the close of last year did not come to my hand until today, 7th.

8th Well I did not write this letter last night — good reason for why — I went to "see the girls"; but instead I will take time this morning and write it before the mail time if possible.

Well, you talk of going to Brattleboro'. I hardly know what to advise you. It does not seem to me very important whether you are at a Water Cure Establishment or not. Perhaps I take a different view of your case from your own. I think that that Dr Munde's opinion is the first one I have heard that I can agree fully with. I am however confident of one thing, that Means, Doctors, Allopathy, Homeopathy, Hydropathy, all other pathy, systems or courses, ~~and~~ Surgeons to boot, cannot Cure you. Nature has got to work out the cure, and I am equally confident that Nature will do it; only give her a fair chance; let her alone. I say again, as I have said to you, mother, and all, times versomany that the cure is & must be a work of time, time. You have erred all along by being in too much hurry. You delayed your ultimate recovery, perhaps shortened your life a year or two, by the prescriptions of Dr Rich &c. Every thing violent since tends to the same; not excepting the Douche Bath, or indeed any other violent means or remedy; any thing that Shocks, Excites, gives pain or uneasiness.

You had when I was down East, and perhaps still have an erroneous idea that you ought to be doing something, that you might be growing worse, the disease let alone would progress.
It is no such thing, besides, being impossible. Why, do you suppose that there is a cancer or any sort of a sore on your Spinal Marrow to keep on growing till it eats it up. Such a thing is not possible, and if it were all Doctoring would do not good.
What ails you is simply some sort of weakness, lack of the nutritive fluid, of vital energy in some portion of the Spinal marrow or Nerve. It must have time to recover. time. rest, quiet, opportunity; and as Dr Thunde said, gentle course of Water cure, to keep the whole system right, clear & pure, and wash away every thing ill resulting from previous medecine or disease.
I have lately heard of two or three cases very similar to yours only worse, but in every case ultimate recovery though long delayed.
A Nephew of the Wife of Rev. Mr. Putnam of Dunbarton, (whose daughter Antoinette I went to see last Night) received a hurt in the back many years ago, affected the Spinal nerve, entirely disabled him, ~~became~~ was unable to use his limbs at all I think for a year or two; it was six or eight years before he was able to do any thing; but ultimately gradually recovered perfectly, is still living, and has been for years one of the smartest business men in Boston, or any where else.
Mother says you are too much disposed to follow the directions of your physicians implicitly. without tending to your own reason or feelings I think she is right. No one has any right to think any other can feel for them. No living being, (certainly without pathetism & Clairvoyance be true) can tell as well your feelings, what you ought to do, what does or doesnt benefit you, as yourself. Fact.

Well, quite a long rigmarole. perhaps it amounts to nothing.
But, I do not know as I can advise you, and if I did you
might not follow it. If Dr Munde goes to Waterford
perhaps you had better stay there; that is if you are comfortable
there, every thing perfectly convenient, and pleasant. that I shall soon come myself to see.
If Dr Munde does not go there; I do decidedly object to your remaining
there. My own feeling would be for you to go back to Milo, or
rather perhaps to Hampden; make up your mind to Wait & get Well.
practise constant, but gentle Water Cure, be contented & happy with
home & friends & every thing around you; I will quit my business
and come and play Back gammon with you if necessary; at any
rate, forget all about the future, have comforts & pleasures enough about
you and enjoy them every day. I will warrant you with proper course,
to enjoy life better than 999 mortals out of 1000 in so doing.
You may not get entirely well next year, perhaps not
the year after. You never will get Well suddenly; but I think I
would warrant you a smart active business man in 1856.
To be sure it is bad enough; but even at that, 7 years out of a man's life,
many a one has wasted that even before your age, and yet done well in the end.
If on the other hand, you decide to go to Brattleboro,
for of course you will decide for yourself. Write to me just when
you want to go and I will be there and accompany you
I can just exactly as well as not. and I am better acquainted
with Rail Road travelling, and can do you good. I can land
you at Dr Wesselhoeft's by easy stages & convenient, everything.
I am nearly out of business here and shall soon leave, very likely for
a better place; if you go to Brattleboro, I will go & go round with
you, if you do not, I shall go home a few days at least.
I can leave here any day, now to accompany you.

I was last week [illegible] on the Vermont & Mass. R.R. at [illegible]
and [illegible], [illegible] in business, and stopped over Sunday
to see the [illegible]. I [illegible] back here to [illegible]
[illegible] Greenfield [illegible] Branch [illegible] I was last winter
[illegible] raised money to [illegible], but I do not think I
shall go, [illegible] it, and I am justified in looking for
a better situation than I can ~~[illegible]~~ have there. There is at present more
probability that I go upon that [illegible] Mountain Route, Troy & Green
field which they are just commencing, [illegible]. I wish
[illegible] to go upon a road in Maine if possible, to be [illegible] home.

The journey to Brattleboro for you, if you do decide to go, which I hardly
think you will, will be very easy for so long one, good Saloon
Cars when we can [illegible], smooth roads & good accommodation
the Roads east of Boston are [illegible] this winter; at least the
Boston & Maine is very bad, when I went over it from
Lawrence to Boston. There is hardly possibility of losing
Baggage by present arrangements. If properly delivered to Bag
gage Master, or if [illegible] Hackman, distinct verbal direction
of the town you are going to, the Baggage is <u>bound</u> to be deli
vered there in [illegible]. To Brattleboro by Fitchburg & Vt. & Mass. R.R. <u>120 miles.</u>

I think I shall leave here, on account of the [illegible] arrange
ments of this company, [illegible] entirely unable to [illegible]
so as to give me enough to do & go ahead as I want to.

I had letter from Mother of Jan. 1st. She was just
going to Hampton. [illegible] visited [illegible].
Mother will enjoy herself there. [illegible]
Me too. Please write to me immediately
[illegible] anxious to learn your determination

[illegible] I. S. R[illegible]

[illegible] [illegible]

Dear Brother [illegible]

[illegible] [illegible] return [illegible] write [illegible]

a [illegible] [illegible]. I had a very pleasant journey [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] Oberst [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] in getting to Waterville. The travelling was bad not frozen enough to [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] [illegible]. Got to [illegible] at 2 [illegible] Portland at [illegible]. Remained at Portland [illegible] [illegible] Sunday night till Wed. Morning; [illegible] had some business there, wanted to see [illegible] [illegible], and to visit the [illegible] [illegible] [illegible]. [illegible] had invited me to see some of their [illegible]

Wed. [illegible] came around here. [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] Many [illegible], subject "Books" you have [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] [illegible]." (introduced the [illegible] with some old story bringing in these questions) "What is a book?"

"Would you know a book if you saw one?"

"Would you know how to read a book if [illegible]?" [illegible] that [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] to do [illegible].

[illegible] suppose [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] and [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] to do. [illegible] [illegible] a [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] [illegible], but at the same [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] [illegible]. [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] [illegible]

able to "make a raise" and go right on with the [illegible]
in the Spring; and extremely anxious to have me
not engage elsewhere, but go on with the [illegible].
If they can only go on with this, there is no question
that I could do much better to stay here than
to engage any where else. As far as I can see I [illegible]
in the best possible favor & popularity here; while every
one else is in the greatest trouble & turmoil.
[illegible] is publishing a Pamphlet [illegible]
management, some of the Directors, the business [illegible]
[illegible] Mr Chase especially, to the very worst, and
about calling a Stockholders Meeting to overhaul
matters, and if possible turn out the Officers &c.
Some even want to turn out Mr Chase and put me in
as Chief! but that of course is ridiculous, I should
have more sense than that myself. I do not pre-
tend to be fit for that place. Mr Chase is a good
Engineer and would [illegible] [illegible] [illegible]
liked if it were not for Noyes Poor; if it were
not for his miserable brothers, but they
will hardly get along with them much longer
and the "lots" may overset Mr Chase.
At any rate I do not see but I am the [illegible]
man likely to profit by almost any thing that
may turn up.
I declare I shall really dread to get up a little higher,
and have the responsibility all fall on my [illegible]
[illegible] [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] [illegible]
[illegible] [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] [illegible]

[illegible]

I have [illegible] [illegible] [illegible]

[illegible] had been saving up some for me, but was obliged to pay it to another the very day before I came. So you see if I had not stopped in Portland, I should have got [illegible] five or six hundred as soon as I arrived [illegible]

[illegible] [illegible] and [illegible]

[illegible] interest [illegible]

I think I shall go round to [illegible]field [illegible] on Monday 17th. perhaps go to Warwick; perhaps to Troy. I came near riding up to Henniker with Mr. [illegible] today, but thought not on weather & travelling.
May possible conclude, just to keep my friends from worrying, to go up to Dunbarton.

I wrote to Elijah, and to Charles from Portland on Tuesday.

I am anxious to hear from you every day. I am afraid you will get that Homeopathist or some one to doctoring on. Do now be quiet and easy and happy, and calm. and not tire or excite yourself; not walk about or exercise your legs too much, be careful [illegible] diet. keep your bowels in order; if you cann[illegible] [illegible] without, send for some Rhubarb pills & take one on going to bed at night. sleep early, and lie down much. Back Gammon frequently, but [illegible] than [illegible] at a time. Avoid business & excitement. Enjoy yourself Socially & Religiously

I should be the Doctor to cure you, (better men [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] Nature cure you,) if you would only follow

Joseph K. M. Metcalf Esq

Bangor

Maine

Isaac: Feb. 15. 1850 Jefferson N.Y.

Brattleboro, Oct. 30th, 1847.

Dear Cousin,

When I was at Winchester I believe I promised to write to you. I certainly intended to write as soon as I found my self permanently situated any where. I have been an Engineer on the Vermont & Massachusetts Rail Road for some five weeks; but I have been employed about in different places on the line, and have hardly been stationary any where. My time has also been pretty constantly employed; by day out on the line, in the fields or woods, and in the evening making calculations and so forth. Still I intended to write to you long before this time. I have felt so little acquainted with most of my relatives, that when I have an opportunity to see them, I feel disposed to prize, and to make the most of their acquaintance.

I have thought often since I saw you that I wanted to hear how your school prospered, and also where you expect to be during the coming winter. I suppose you intend to continue in the business of teaching; and wish you could be situated somewhere where I could see you occasionally. I believe you promised, after I obtained a situation upon a Rail Road, to come over this way, and see me. I am engaged at present in surveying a Rail Road route from this place Brattleboro, to Bellows Falls; and shall probably remain here for some weeks, perhaps all the Fall, and part of the winter.
I like the business very well. There is considerable exposure, and some hard labor; besides a good degree of mental exertion, in making calculations, plotting surveys, and such kind of things. I believe I am pretty well able to endure any such hardships. Exposure to cold affects me less than it does most I believe, and I am pretty tough in enduring fatigue of any kind. The hardest part of the business of Engineering, as I suppose of most others, is at the beginning.
On the whole, I think I shall like the business

of Engineering better than that of School teaching, if not than College life.

Well, I believe I have not much more time for writing this letter. You must excuse it for my lack of time. And now I hope I shall soon have the pleasure of receiving a letter from you; and may it be the commencement of a lasting correspondence. I want to hear of the success of your School, and also where you expect to be the coming winter.

I hoped to be able to visit Royalston again this Fall, but in my present employment it is very uncertain when I shall have any chance for a leave of absence.

I must close. Please direct a letter to Brattleboro. If I am not here I shall get letters from here.

Yours Sincerely

I. S. Metcalf.

From J. S. Metcalf
Found in Old house "under the hill" in
Royalston by J. W. M.
Aug. 1901

BRATTLEBORO VT.
NOV
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Mr. Josiah H. Metcalf
Winchester
N. H.

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